

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

# Review Club

VOLUME 25 - Issue 3, 2012

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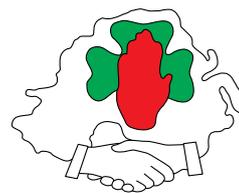


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## Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in Bangor Football & Development Club,  
on Thursday 12th April 2012



The Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting following which the Secretary, Bob McGlone, read the minutes of the previous meeting which were subsequently passed, proposed and seconded as a true record by Brian McCartney and Jim Wilson.

Correspondence received by the Secretary, other than subscription renewals, was a notice from the HMRC informing us that the Federation's corporation tax return had been completed and paid.

The Chairman proceeded to cover additional correspondence and queries via the helplines providing details.

Copies of the financial report were distributed to all present by the Treasurer, Davy Larmour who provided details where required. The report was proposed as a true record of our financial standing to date by acclamation.

The proposal at our A.G.M. that membership fees be

increased from £50 per annum to £75 was discussed in some detail. Much as we appreciate the gesture it was thought appropriate to reflect on the interests of all clubs in consideration of the current economic climate as a result of which it was decided that correspondence be forwarded to clubs requesting their opinion on the proposal. We feel that if it were required to raise additional funding for a particular legal challenge members would provide same.

In conclusion it was proposed that for future AGM's we will inform members that those wishing to raise matters or make proposals should do so in the established format set out for all



*The Federation executive with members of the management committee of the Bangor Football & Development Club.*

AGM's which would require the matters to be submitted at least three weeks prior to the A.G.M. for inclusion on the Agenda.

We were invited to attend a meeting of the management committee of a member club who have incurred some difficulties. We were pleased to meet representatives of the club in an advisory capacity and were pleased to be in a position to provide some guidance on how matters should be progressed.

Another query was related to a member club encountering difficulties obtaining a late extension from the P.S.N.I. It appears there was a misunderstanding which thankfully we were able to settle satisfactorily. In order to avoid similar problems we provided the club with details of the procedure required. The club was grateful for our intervention

and the action taken by the police. 'All's well that ends well.'

Representatives of BSKyB Ireland travelled to Belfast for a meeting to update us on new developments and to discuss ways in which the Club Package can be developed within member clubs of the Federation. We are aware, as are BSKyB, that foreign satellite is still being used. New developments indicate that the new tariffs discussed will make the Club Package more affordable, enabling clubs to remain within the law. The SKY package to clubs is reasonable in its present form and we are hopeful that the meeting highlighted will provide further benefits.

A further matter related to a member club required a meeting at which to iron out an issue. A few niggly points

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were raised, but good sense prevailed with the club now having a clearer picture of what is required.

The annual dinner dance was discussed in detail outlining that the take-up of tickets had been initially somewhat slower than usual, due in no small part to the economic climate. However, in the end the usual excellent attendance will be maintained. As a matter of interest options for other annual events were discussed, with suggestions such as 'A Day at the Races'.

At a meeting with 'HIS Solutions', a company specialising in solar energy, we were given a very interesting and comprehensive presentation on the subject. They made it clear that they have a very wide portfolio and can arrange to carry out various types of maintenance work that a club may require from time to time. In regard to the solar energy they offer a no cost survey and installation to suitable club premises, which in turn provides free daytime electricity and financial return when power is directed into the national grid.

The next Executive meeting is scheduled for 23rd May 2012 which sees the Federation accepting an invitation to the N.I. Cancer Fund for Children facility at Shimna Valley, Newcastle, County Down.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed with the Chairman thanking the management committee of Bangor Football, Social & Development club for hosting the meeting and the hospitality provided.

Bob McGlone,  
Secretary, N.I. Federation of Clubs

## Take extra care if thinking of cutting staff hours

Many committees are finding they need to change staff Contracts of Employment, usually to reduce working hours.

The golden rule is that clubs cannot impose changes on existing staff Contracts without agreement with the individual staff member (or their representative). Once agreed, the changes must be recorded in writing and signed by both parties within one month of the date it is to take effect.

In the absence of an up-to-date written Contract of Employment implied Terms & Conditions of Employment will apply. This means that it is what is actually being performed by the employee during the course of their employment that is the basis of their contract.

Failure to obtain agreement with individual staff members to change Contracts of Employment can result in a successful claim being brought to the Employment Tribunal for Breach of Contract. Clubs insured under the Rollins club policy will have provision for labour relations issues within the terms of their policy and we continue to advise clubs that they should contact their insurance company in the first instance. This part of the club policy is underwritten by specialists, 'DAS'.

The safest, and only legally correct way to obtain agreement to any changes is to meet, consult and be open with staff and let them have sight of any relevant documents - for instance, a set of accounts showing the club's worsened financial position.

If, after being properly consulted and agreeing a variation, an employee unreasonably refuses to sign, date and return the contract, you should invite them to a meeting to discuss their concerns. If they still refuse, write to them, informing them that by performing the work they are bound by the terms and conditions described in the agreed variation. Retain a copy for your records.

- All staff must be issued with written details of their employment within two months of starting work.

Contracts of employment do not have to be in writing but under the 1996 Employment Rights Act (ERA), the most

important part of the contract "the written statement of employment particulars" must be given to all new staff. This applies to any staff member employed for longer than a period of two months. Existing staff are also entitled to request a similar written statement. New legal requirements are enacted regularly so it is advisable that a legal advisor reviews the text. If the club does not provide the written statement the staff member may make a complaint to an employment tribunal within three months of the club failing to provide the statement.

*This is an extremely complex area. It is highly recommended that specific professional legal advice and guidance should always be obtained.*



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## Staff misuse of alcohol

Clubs must recognise that for a range of reasons staff can misuse alcohol, and that this represents a problem for the employee and for the club.

The effects of alcohol misuse range from absenteeism, low productivity and increased disciplinary action to injury in the workplace. A policy therefore should be adopted in order to protect all staff and the club, and to offer appropriate help and support to the individuals concerned.

The policy must apply to all workers, staff and temporary workers.

### Responsibility

The club should encourage all staff to take responsibility for

awareness of the problems, but ultimately responsibility for the operation of the policy lies with the club management.

### Definitions

Alcohol misuse is defined as excessive consumption of alcohol during working hours, or attending work under the influence of alcohol.

During working hours includes during breaks or on the way to work. Many clubs, however, are happy for employees to have the occasional drink.

### The Rules

The club should not permit:

- alcohol misuse during working hours
- being under the influence of alcohol while at work

- encouraging others to misuse alcohol.

### Safeguards

The club should recognise the difficulties that can be faced by those who misuse alcohol, and therefore:

- absence for treatment and rehabilitation for alcohol problems will be regarded as normal sickness;
- it will be recognised that relapses do occur;



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- the policy should be monitored and reviewed regularly;

### Confidentiality

If a member of staff requests help from the Secretary, or any other person, prior to management being aware of poor performance, then in accordance with the disciplinary or capability procedure any information regarding an employee's problems with alcohol will be treated as confidential, subject to the club's legal obligations.

### Help

The club should offer practical support to those experiencing problems, for example, they may be able to refer employees to an appropriate advisory service. The club should encourage staff to seek specialist help.

### Disciplinary action

Alcohol misuse may become a matter for disciplinary action in accordance with the disciplinary or capability procedure, subject to the letter and spirit of the club's policy, particularly where help is refused and/or impaired performance continues. Dismissal may result from disciplinary action.

Possession of and dealing in illegal substances should be immediately reported to the police in all cases; there is no alternative to this procedure.

A steward and his wife, made redundant by a struggling UK

club, have won nearly £20,000 after an employment tribunal. The couple's jobs came with a house they had lived in for more than 20 years and in late 2010 they were offered new contracts with their hours cut by a third because the club was in danger of closing.

They said they were willing to work fewer hours, but wanted to negotiate. In March 2011 the Steward was asked to come up with proposals; four days later he suggested his wife be made redundant and his own hours cut but instead he was handed a redundancy letter.

The tribunal found the Steward was not properly consulted and that four days was not long enough, particularly as he would also lose his home.

The ruling stated: "We are satisfied that consultation was so inadequate as to render his dismissal unfair." In his wife's case "we are satisfied that she was neither warned nor consulted at all prior to the decision to dismiss her."

The tribunal found the couple were entitled to £19,253 in redundancy pay and compensation.

The Club Chairman said the committee had tried to follow procedures but admitted they had not done everything "to the letter."

It goes without saying in employment law it is essential everything is done "to the

letter". We reiterate once again that if your club insurance policy has provision inbuilt for labour relations issues you should always seek their advice prior to taking any action. To do otherwise could be an extremely expensive and damaging step.

### Bookkeeper Stole

A court has been told how a rugby club bookkeeper defrauded its social club of at least £9,500 after admitting

six specimen charges with three of the charges relating to payments made to themselves, which had been hidden as bar purchases and other expenses. The other three charges were for making false representations to the club's bank to cover up forged cheques by inflating invoices.

As always, it is essential that club finance committees remain vigilant.

## The law has changed

From the 1st of May 2012 all registered clubs in Northern Ireland are required to display a notice at each place in their premises where intoxicating liquor is supplied and in a position where it is readily visible to any person seeking to be supplied with intoxicating liquor.

Included with your Club Review this month is a poster, specifically designed by the NI Federation of Clubs, for you to copy and display in the relative areas of your club where it is required. Following this guidance will ensure your club does not fall foul of this new law.

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# 2012 Dinner & Dance

## N.I.F.C. Annual Dinner & Dance

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The 2012 dinner and dance was an enormous success, despite the current economic climate.

A decision taken in previous years to provide all seating at round tables proved to be an excellent decision from the aspect of visibility and conversing with other guests.

In his welcoming address Federation Chairman, John Davidson, made reference to the continuing global economic climate and its effect throughout the licensed trade.

He continued to comment on the now implemented amendments to the clubs legislation and accounts regulations which formed part of our submissions to the Legislative Assembly.

The Chairman continued by expressing particular thanks to each and every one of our trade suppliers for their support, underlining the importance of our members utilising the services they provide where and when possible.

Continuing, he expressed the thanks of the Federation

executive committee for the way in which members, their partners and guests, continue to support this successful event each year adding his appreciation for the support he receives from the Federation Secretary, Bob McGlone, Treasurer, Davy Larmour, P.R.O., Harry Beckinsale and the members of the Federation executive committee.

In conclusion, he acknowledged the important role played by our sponsors in supporting events such as this, stating that without this support things would be much more difficult. The Chairman thanked Tennent's NI for providing the welcoming reception and to all those other companies who provided support and prizes for the raffle.

Speaking on behalf of the invited guests Mr Duncan Millar, Commercial Director of Tennent's NI, complimented the club sector outlining the important economic role it plays within the leisure sector. He went on to comment on the position of Tennent's NI brands within the industry which has seen tremendous change, but that the company



Northern Ireland's 'First Lady' May McFetridge aka, John Linehan, pictured with Federation executive committee members (L-R) Davy Larmour, Tommy McMinn, John Davidson and Joe Patterson.

are well placed to meet the challenges before them.

On the problems associated with the 'stay at home' culture, and events surrounding anti-social behaviour, we are pleased to have been involved with other industry partners in the preparation of a voluntary code of practice being launched in May 2012.

With the continuing economic climate we remain of the view

that those clubs which prepare best are more likely to suffer less.

This year, comedian 'May McFetridge' provided the laughs with music provided by 'Contrast' who were outstanding.

This event in the club year is a shining example of how club people get along together in harmony, indeed it could form a template for those on the hill!

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The Federation's Brian McCartney with Lyle Dunn, Acorn Inspections, and his wife Sharon.

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# 2012 Dinner & Dance



1. Representatives of Portadown Masonic and Windsor Snooker Club meet up.
2. It was great to have Dundela Football and Social Club in attendance again.
3. Dessie Moore, NIFC (left), and his sister Ann Proctor with Federation Treasurer, Davy Larmour.
4. Jim Wilson of the NIFC with Sam Dinsmore, Computer Accounting Bureau.
5. Representatives of Oasis Retail Services.
6. Mr and Mrs Frank Doherty of West Belfast Social Club.
7. Representatives from West Belfast Social Club enjoyed the evening.





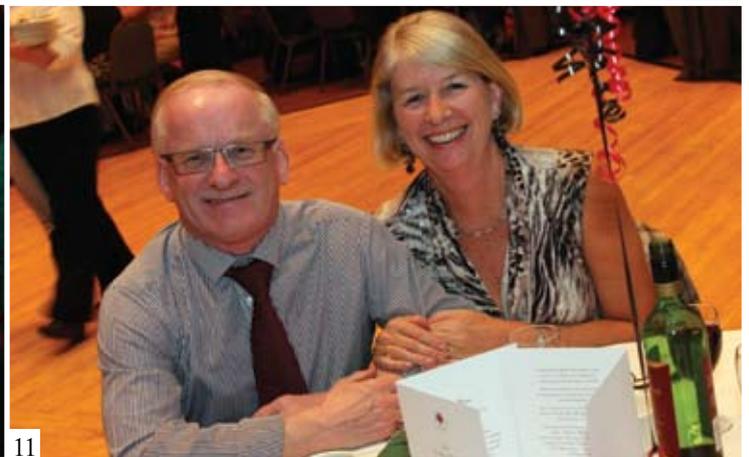
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- 8. Representatives of Bangor Football and Development Club.
- 9. Representatives of Mountainview Social Club.
- 10. Representatives from AOH Belfast (Clonard Hibs).
- 11. Mr & Mrs Ronnie Harkness, Portadown Masonic Club.
- 12. Richard Vincent and his guest in good spirits.
- 13. Tony and Valerie, H&W Welders FSC, making the first of what we hope will be many visits to the Federation dinner and dance.
- 14. Bootle Street and Ligoniel HPS were well represented.

# 2012 Dinner & Dance



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15. Frank McKee, Treasurer of the Ulster Sports Club, with Ernie Cressey and his family and friends who made the trip from Yorkshire to attend this year's dinner.

16. Pat and Cathleen McGoldrick (left) with friends Jim and Maureen Fitzsimmons.

17. Colin Beckinsale with his friend Joe Smith of Grosvenor HPS Club, Belfast.

18. Representatives from the CCC's Rosemary Street, Belfast.

19. May gets hold of the Federation's Brian McCartney.

20. Dermot Rollins, Rollins Club Insurance, and his guests

21. Contrast were in excellent form and provided a perfect program for the event.



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- 22. It was a pleasure to have Portadown Masonic in attendance this year.
- 23. Raymond Connor of the NIFC with Ross Hegarty of Tennent's NI.
- 24. All friends together from Greenisland and Belfast.
- 25. Representatives from Falls Bowling & Tennis Club.
- 26. (L-R) Mrs Eileen Harris with Mr Cahal and Mrs Sonya O'Neill.
- 27. Portadown masonic were well represented this year and look forward to returning in 2013.
- 28. Tony Moore (2nd left) and representatives of Goodyear Sports and Social Club, Craigavon with Federation executive committee member, Joe Patterson.

# The N.I. Cancer Fund for Children seek your club's support!



N.I. Cancer Fund for Children Chief Executive, Gillian Creevy, needs your club's support.

It is a dreadful fact that one in three of us will be affected by cancer at some stage in our lives, but when it affects a child, teenager or young adult one can only imagine the enormous impact it must have on the entire family. This is precisely where the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children has been proactive in providing an unsurpassed range of services with which to support those most in need.

It is difficult to believe that despite the tremendous support the charity provides, only minimal funding is provided by the government.

Clubs have been regular supporters of this wonderful charity over many years, but on this occasion they seek your support to complete a project at its Shimna Valley facility in Newcastle, County Down, where young people and family members can benefit from some respite during and following cancer treatment.

A target figure of £100,000 has been set which can hopefully enjoy the continued support of our friends in the club sector.

Clubs such as H&W Welders support this and other charities throughout the year, as do other clubs, but this is an opportunity for all clubs to unify and play an important role in securing funding for a facility that can be utilised by all.

The club sector has been recognised over many years for its tangible support of charities, all of which in return have acknowledged that support through the NICVA Awards scheme.



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## Questions & Answers

**Q.** We are holding a disciplinary meeting for one of our employees. Instead of having the entire Committee attend, we consider that a smaller Sub-Committee, which is familiar with the employee and the case in question, should conduct this meeting. Is this acceptable and also, how much information should we give to the employee in advance of the disciplinary meeting?

**A.** Whilst any decision taken should be endorsed by the entire Committee it is reasonable to allow the Committee to nominate a Sub-Committee to conduct the hearing and then report back to the main Committee with their recommendation.

The employee should be provided with any information which is relevant to the complaint which is going to be discussed at the hearing. Little will be gained from the meeting if the employee is not made aware of the points of contention in advance of the hearing and will therefore not be in a position to provide accurate and full answers when requested. Indeed, if the employee is not given full details of the complaint being made,

then the disciplinary procedure will effectively be invalid.

**Q.** A hearing for a member was held last night. The appeal was made by a former member who was recently expelled. The Rules of our Club provide that a person who has been expelled has the right to appeal. The appeal panel would like to know if it is possible to offer him a 12 month suspension with a proviso that once he has served this term that he will be allowed back into the Club as a probationary member for a period of time, namely 5 years?

**A.** The appeal panel can choose to uphold the original expulsion, replace the expulsion with a suspension of Membership or decide that no action should be taken against this Member.

Under the Rules of the Club, a Member can only be suspended for up to twelve months. After the suspension has expired then the Member will then return to full Membership of the Club. It is not possible for a Member to return on a probationary basis. The appeal panel should be made aware that the Club does not have a probationary Membership category in existence.

**Q.** We are holding a disciplinary Meeting and as Secretary I would usually take the Minutes. However, I have been heavily involved in the disciplinary investigation so will I be required

to take on a different role during the Meeting. We have a former Secretary, who has not been involved in this case, who is willing to take the minutes. Would this be appropriate?

**A.** The person you describe would seem to be an appropriate person to take the minutes, provided the Minutes are accepted by a subsequent Meeting as being an accurate reflection of what took place. It is not terribly important who actually takes the Minutes. The important thing is that the Minutes are accurate.

**Q.** We have an employee who has been off work sick for over three months. Is it possible to dismiss an employee who is on long term sickness?

**A.** Yes, but great care must be taken. The inability of an employee to do a job, for whatever reason, is a valid reason for dismissal. However, the case of the employee who becomes physically or mentally unable to do his or her job because of illness, or is persistently absent from work because of illness, clearly demands special consideration. Employment Tribunals recognise that - especially in smaller businesses - it will often not be possible for the organisation to 'carry' the ill employee, and they understand that a time comes when the employer can no longer be expected to keep open the post of an employee who is off sick.





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## Update on Premier League television rights

Following on from the High Court announcement on the Karen Murphy European Court of Justice (ECJ) case, thousands of club stewards and pub landlords on mainland UK are braced for stiff fines or possibly even jail as the Premier League begin a campaign of prosecutions against venues that illegally broadcast Premier League football matches. The ECJ stated that it was not unlawful for private individuals to obtain services, such as sports coverage, from abroad. However, as a repercussion of that ruling it has emerged that for copyright reasons it will not be possible for commercial premises to show Premier League football games transmitted by foreign broadcasters. Whilst Karen Murphy was successful in

her original case (that UK individuals should be able to purchase goods and services from abroad), it has not translated into the opening up of foreign satellite services as the Premier League are now pursuing commercial establishments on the separate grounds relating to copyright infringement.

This latest twist to the Murphy case has been established following a recent court judgment in which the Premier League won a copyright ruling against two foreign satellite suppliers and six UK pubs that used non-UK decoder cards to show games. In a High Court ruling in February, Judge David Kitchin found that the pubs infringed Premier League

copyright by showing customers the Premier League's copyright works including logos, graphics and anthems without the Premier League's consent.

Speaking after the case the Premier League said, "Following the news that Karen Murphy's appeal to the High Court has seen her conviction overturned the Premier League would like to make clear that this decision does not change the outcome of the QC Leisure foreign satellite case. In that judgment (QC Leisure), made on 3 February 2012, Lord Justice Kitchin was consistent with the ECJ ruling and made it clear that the law gives us the right to prevent the unauthorised use of our copyrights in pubs and clubs when they are communicated

to the public without our authority. That unauthorised use gives rise to both civil and criminal penalties. Therefore should Mrs Murphy, or any other publican, use European Economic Area foreign satellite systems to show Premier League football on their premises without our authority and outside the scope of our authorisation, they make themselves liable for us to take action against them in both the civil and criminal courts."

This was supported by Sky who said, "The UK courts have already ruled that the unauthorised use of the Premier League's copyrighted material via foreign satellite systems in pubs and clubs is illegal. This remains the case following



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the ruling on Karen Murphy. We will continue to protect our legitimate customers by supporting action against licensees who break the law. At the same time, we will continue to work with the licensed trade to help even more pubs and clubs enjoy the business benefits of live sport.”

As a warning of what is to come and how seriously the courts treat copyright offences, an Essex landlord was last month ordered to pay more than £19,000 in fines and costs after being convicted of showing Premier League and international matches via Sky Sports without a legitimate viewing agreement. Sheffield licensee, Frederick Young, was convicted on 6 February at Basildon Magistrates’ Court and fined £2,500 for each of six offences of dishonest reception of a television transmission. Young, prosecuted under the

Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988, was also told to pay £4,522 in costs.

In a further development, one of Britain’s main distributors of foreign boxes and cards, Euroview, has ceased trading. In a notice posted on its website last month, it said the latest High Court judgment found the Premier League was “entitled to copyright protection of certain artistic works and graphics that formed part of the relevant broadcasts of football matches in these proceedings”.

It warned: “There is now the prospect that companies providing a service that allows the ‘communication to the public’ of any such artistic works could cause their customers to be liable for copyright infringement.” The company told customers that their accounts with it would cease on 10 February.

Since the original ECJ ruling, the Premier League’s content has been developed to include more logos and symbols that uphold its ownership of the material, meaning venues cannot flout the rule by turning the television on and off at key times.

The Premier League and Sky believe the ruling on QC Leisure is significant. The thousands of landlords under investigation would include those suspected of infringing Premier League copyright by using foreign feeds to show games as well as pubs that screened Sky’s matches bought with a domestic subscription and not featuring the “pint glass” on-screen symbol showing the subscription had been purchased for commercial use.

Karen Murphy’s lawyer, Paul Dixon, has also warned licensees against installing such systems.

He said, “Anybody in Karen’s position needs to consider what they are doing, they need to take proper advice, and then to act accordingly. There are still some issues we are aware of regarding showing foreign broadcasts of Premier League matches venues, some copyright issues that came out of the case recently, so people need to be guided carefully and seek proper advice. My message at the moment would be to look very carefully at the judgment from Lord Justice Kitchin and take proper advice on it, take it on board, and then consider how best to proceed after that.”

The Premier League and Sky have also begun a campaign of warning adverts. This is likely to trigger fresh activity in the courts as officials from organisations working for and on behalf of the Premier League step up visits to venues suspected of showing matches unlawfully.

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# Has your club cashed in on an ATM yet?



The economic climate continues to place a huge burden on registered clubs and not surprisingly, the initial focus is usually on 'belt-tightening' and reducing overheads. With outgoings firmly under control though, the next stage is to review the potential for increasing member visits and spend. One easy step to help achieve these goals is to install a cash machine. It's a route that many clubs have taken since ATM supplier InfoCash began working with the NIFC a couple

of years ago, providing members with tailor-made ATM packages through P&F Amusements, its partner in Northern Ireland.

Having a cash machine in a club boosts business on a number of levels: For members, it ensures they have convenient and safe access to cash whenever they need it. For the club, it increases footfall and turnover, generates revenue from transactions and delivers savings on bank charges

InfoCash offers NIFC members ATM solutions that are designed to meet their individual requirements. They take care of all servicing and maintenance and provide full staff training. With more than 5,000 cash machines installed in businesses across the country,

including Northern Ireland, InfoCash is the third largest ATM supplier in the UK and the number one supplier to the club/pub and gaming sector. Don't miss out. To make sure

your club cash's in, contact: InfoCash or The P&F Group on: 028 9037 0314 and they'll take care of the rest; alternatively contact the N.I.F.C. on 07889 681714.

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**By law, you need to be licensed  
to play music in your club.**

You probably haven't thought much about it. You've just got music on for your staff or customers. But did you know you need permission from the music's copyright owners if you play music, TV or radio aloud at work? It's the law. But don't worry, to get that permission you simply need a licence from *PRS for Music*\* (and in most cases, one from PPL\*\* too). *PRS for Music* is a not-for-profit organisation that acts on behalf of songwriters and composers to ensure they're paid for the use of their work. So if you have music playing, ask *PRS for Music* how you become licensed to listen today.

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\**PRS for Music* licences cover the vast majority of music originating from the UK and all over the world. However, if you play music that is outside of *PRS for Music*'s control, you may need an additional licence from the relevant copyright owner(s). You will require a TV licence as well if you are using a TV in your premises. You do not need a licence from *PRS for Music* in the unlikely event that all the music you play is out of copyright or is not controlled by *PRS for Music*. \*\*PPL collects and distributes royalties on behalf of record companies and performers. Further info at [ppluk.com](https://ppluk.com). All music licences are required under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 which stipulates you must gain the permission of the copyright owner if you play music in public (anywhere outside the home environment).

## Men Against Cancer launch appeal



Men Against Cancer representatives with Health Minister, Edwin Poots.

Men Against Cancer has launched a new funding drive which it says is urgently

needed to support local research efforts to combat the growing incidence of male

cancers – particularly prostate cancer.

Around 800 new cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed in Northern Ireland every year. The disease is the second most common cause of cancer-related death in men, accounting for more than 200 deaths annually in Northern Ireland.

The organisation, which is headed by local businessman Eric Cairns, made its appeal at a special one-day symposium officially opened by Health Minister, Edwin Poots.

The Minister said, “Despite the current financial challenges, I am determined to continue to support research and clinical trials through the Health and Social Care R&D Fund. Currently, this fund annually

dedicates some £2.5m to cancer research in Northern Ireland.”

The Health Minister also acknowledged the vital role that charities, community and business groups have to play in the fight against cancer going on to congratulate the charity for their work to raise awareness and support research on prostate cancer, having already raised over £1.2m to establish a treatment unit in Belfast City Hospital, dedicated to men’s cancers with a strong emphasis on prostate cancer.

The club sector has been recognised over many years for its support of local charities and good causes and this is a local charity providing a service particularly worthy of being included in a clubs annual charity giving.

## Charities call for action to improve access to cancer treatments for patients

The Ulster Cancer Foundation (UCF) and the Rarer Cancers Foundation (RCF) are today calling for the Northern Ireland Executive to take measures to ensure better access to drugs for cancer patients in Northern Ireland. This call for action follows a roundtable summit hosted by the charities in Stormont which brought together senior representatives from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), politicians and leading clinicians to discuss the current challenges facing cancer patients in getting access to the most effective medicines. At the summit, a number of Members of the Legislative Assembly

(MLAs) gave their support to the charities’ campaign by signing a pledge to improve cancer treatments for patients.

Both UCF and RCF have long campaigned for more effective and transparent systems to ensure patients are able to access those drugs deemed appropriate by their clinician and better information on what treatments are available.

Research conducted by UCF among cancer specialists showed that some cancer patients are missing out on vital life-prolonging cancer medicines because cancer doctors are forced to fill out an individual

funding request each time they want to prescribe a new cancer medicine for a patient. This protracted process has resulted in 40% of those cancer specialists surveyed having, at some time in the past, received a decision too late to initiate treatment for a patient, for a medicine that would be routinely available in England.

In recent months, there have been a series of positive announcements by the DHSSPS and discussions in the Assembly on the issue of access to medicines in Northern Ireland. In September 2011, Health Minister Edwin Poots MLA, announced the introduction of a new process improving the availability of treatments approved by the National Institute for Health



(L-R) Róisín Foster, Chief Executive, UCF, Prof. Joe Sullivan, Queen’s University Belfast, Andrew Wilson, Rarer Cancers Foundation, Dr Paddy Woods, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS, and Liz Atkinson, UCF.

and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in Northern Ireland. This recent summit provided an opportunity for those in attendance to share their perspectives on how the new system for approving treatments will operate.



## UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award



April winner Caoimhe Mohan with UGAAWA Chairman, J.P. Graham.

Football life couldn't be much better for Caoimhe Mohan just now. Victory for Monaghan in the Ladies' Division One NFL final, against Cork, was, surely, a dream come true. However, that happened during May and already the Truagh teenage footballer had made her mark as it was for her exploits during April that she is honoured with our Monthly Merit Award.

The 18-year-old DIT student nurse was the livewire that lit the sparks up front for Monaghan. She hit home 1-3 from play in her corner-forward role as the light blues were brushed aside.

Her general play also contributed handsomely to her team's victory but she was surprised when told of her Merit Award. "When I got the phone call I was shocked. I thought that it was someone from a newspaper wanting an interview about the final. It took a while for the reason of the call to sink in," she recalled. "Naturally, I'm chuffed with the award and it gave me a big boost going into the final."

Her recent form is all the more meritorious since she tore ankle ligaments in February and missed a few weeks training during recovery.

## Magners announces sponsorship



James Simpson, Magners Marketing Manager, with Mike Todd, General Manager, Down Royal, at the launch of the 2012 Magners Derby.

It's a treble that's paying off big time for horse racing fans. Magners, which stepped up to the starting line last year to sponsor the Ulster Derby (*now known as the Magners Derby*) has announced a new three year commitment to support the race, held this year on June 23rd.

Magners' connection with Down Royal will extend further this Summer as the brand also sponsors the Magners Race Meet on the evening of Friday July 27th.

Announcing details of the association, James Simpson, Magners Marketing Manager,

said, "This latest three year commitment reinforces the success of our association with Down Royal whose Summer Festival combines top class racing with a relaxed social atmosphere which sits perfectly with Magners, N.I.'s No. 1 Cider. The rich €65,000 prize pot for the Magners Derby ensures the event's recognition as a major sporting occasion, and a much loved highlight of the racing season ... but it doesn't stop there. Down Royal has also successfully opened up 'the sport of kings' to new and younger audiences, enhancing the racing experience with fabulous hospitality and entertainment."

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## Ballymena Utd make it a clean sweep in April NIFWA awards



Ballymena Utd Manager Glenn Ferguson, receives his Carling sponsored N.I. Football Writers' Association Manager of the Month award from Carling's Paula Nesbitt and NIFWA Chairman, Mark MacIntosh. His side were unbeaten in April with four wins and one draw in the Carling Premiership.



Ballymena Utd striker James Costello received the April Player's award after scoring an impressive seven goals in April. He started the month with a brace against Donegal Celtic before adding a hat-trick against his old side Carrick Rangers, as well as single strikes against Glenavon and Dungannon Swifts.

## Action Cancer Football Frenzy



JJB Irish Cup Finalists Alan Blayney, Linfield and David Rainey, Crusaders join forces with Georgina Campbell from Action Cancer to help launch the Action Cancer's Football Frenzy 6 a-side tournament on Saturday 2nd June 2012 at the Billy Neill Centre of Excellence, Comber. Registration is only £50 per team and all proceeds will go to saving lives and supporting people with cancer in Northern Ireland. To register, contact Emma McArdle on 028 9080 3349 or [emcardle@actioncancer.org](mailto:emcardle@actioncancer.org) or check out [www.actioncancer.org](http://www.actioncancer.org)

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