

Review Club

VOLUME 25 - Issue 2, 2012

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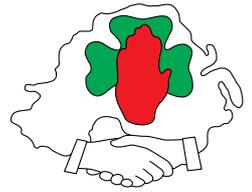


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Minutes of the executive meeting



Held in the Dockers Club, Belfast, on Saturday 11th February 2012

The Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting, following which the Secretary, Bob McGlone, read the minutes of the previous meeting which were passed as a true record being proposed and seconded by Raymond Connors and Jim McCaul.

Written correspondence which was related to renewal of club memberships was conveyed to the committee and discussed.

The amendments to Clubs Legislation in respect of additional late extensions and young people on the premises of a sports club comes into operation on the 1st March 2012. Late extensions will increase from 52 to 85 and young people will be permitted on sports club premises until 10.00pm or until 10.30pm where they are having food. Clubs which are not sports clubs will require a children's certificate.

The introduction of ID requirements is imminent as are other notices, most of which are already known to clubs. A voluntary code of practice is currently being prepared in attempts to counteract the growing anti-social behaviour issue and will focus on various items to include the restriction on special promotions etc.

Information on the Government's position can be obtained at www.dsadni.gov.uk The Act is entitled "LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) ACT 2011".

It was ask clubs to notify the Federation of their donations to charities and worthy causes in order they can be highlighted in Club Review and receive appropriate recognition to the local community.

There has been some dialogue from the P.S.N.I. regarding advertising and the manner in which advertising is formatted. Samples of the way in which an advertisement should be worded is available from the Federation.

There is a possibility of further repayments from H.M.R.C. regarding gaming machines and entrance fees to cultural events where live music is featured. Our accountant, Lawrence Shearer, is investigating the issue and members will subsequently be informed of developments.

We are informed that the manner in which gaming machines will be licensed is being subjected to change in the March 2012 budget. Details will of course be provided when available.

The Treasurer presented a financial report which was passed, proposed and seconded by Gerry Gallagher and Tommy McMinn.

The P.R.O. conveyed details of the invitation for the Federation to visit the N.I. Cancer Fund for Children's Shimna Valley centre in Newcastle, County Down for an Executive Committee meeting. Thanks for the invitation were

expressed with the suggestion to complete arrangements for May. Our P.R.O., Harry Beckinsale, will progress the arrangements.

The Annual Dinner and Dance was discussed. Ticket prices will remain the same as 2011 i.e. £25 each. The band being Contrast with May McFettridge topping the bill.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed with thanks being extended to the management committee of the Dockers Sports and Social Club for hosting the meeting and for providing hospitality following the meeting.

Bob McGlone
Secretary, NIFC

Minutes of the 2012 A.G.M.

Held in the R.A.O.B. H.Q., Belfast, on Saturday 10th March

The Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting by welcoming club representatives following which he requested that a moments silence be observed in honour of absent friends.

The secretary, Bob McGlone was introduced to read the

Minutes of the 2011 A.G.M. which were subsequently passed as a true record, being proposed and seconded by Robert York of the Mountainview Social Club and seconded by Lynn Ardoors from the Royal British Legion Club, Millisle.

Continued on p4

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Copies of the Financial report were provided in the packs presented to delegates on arrival at the AGM. In his presentation the Treasurer, David Larmour, went through the detail of the report providing explanations where necessary. The report was subsequently passed as a true record of our financial standing to December 2011, being proposed as a true record by Hugh Stockman and passed by acclamation.

It is my opinion as Secretary, which I feel sure is shared by the Executive Committee, the preparatory paperwork and all printing done by Media Marketing in compiling lists, attending meetings, preparing for this A.G.M., and the representation by our Public Relations officer, Harry Beckinsale, has been of enormous assistance in keeping our workload and costs down.

The Chairman detailed the lobbying carried out throughout 2011. While some amendments were made they did not go as far as we would have liked. The amendments granted included the number of special authorisations being increased from 52 to 85 per year and the hours during which a young person is permitted on the premises of a sports club being increased from 9pm to 10pm with that being extended to 10.30pm where food is being consumed. Clubs other than sports clubs will require a children's certificate to permit children on their premises.

The right to advertise the activities in private member clubs was not granted due to an error when the vote was being taken in the Assembly, however we feel this matter will be resolved at a future date. The PRO outlined the way in which



Federation officers made a comprehensive presentation to delegates.

a club can advertise within the requirements of the Clubs Order.

The Chairman continued by providing information on the VAT returns related to snooker and pool income, proceeding to explain details of the Linneweber 1 success and outlining details on the current Linneweber 2

case. A number of clubs enjoyed the benefit of the reclaim related to the initial Linneweber case, also successfully reclaiming the interest.

Club officials were informed on the ability to reclaim the VAT on admission fees paid to cultural events where live music is performed.

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The aforementioned Linneweber 2 case is presently being pursued by the Federation Accountant Lawrence Shearer, with his contact details being available from our website or Club Review should anyone require his services. Clubs were advised that a number of club accountants have engaged his services due to his expertise in the Linneweber case.

We are also informed that the Accounting regulations are to be amended to a form fit for purpose in respect of a club's size.

It appears that gaming machine licenses and VAT are to be abolished in their present form to be replaced with a percentage charge on the income from machines. Details are to be revealed in the budget. The chairman is of the opinion that this may benefit clubs, but it's a case of wait and see!

At this point the PRO apologised that Federation delegate Joe Patterson, who normally provides a presentation on employment issues was on holiday. He continued to provide a brief overview on changes in respect of pension legislation and the difficulties presented by employment legislation, going

on to advise those present that in the event of an industrial relations dispute they contact their insurance company in the first instance. He went on to outline that Rollins Club Insurance has this aspect of insurance cover provided in their club policy by 'DAS' who are specialists in this area of insurance. The PRO went on to advise that those clubs not insured via Rollins check their respective club policies as a matter of urgency to ensure the said cover is encompassed in their policy. Details for 'DAS' can be obtained on their website at www.das.co.uk. Their address is:- DAS House, Quay Side, Temple Back, Bristol.

The detail of new pension regulations was outlined which confirms that every employee will eventually be required to join a pension scheme.

The Government has published a revised staging timetable for when employers of all sizes must start enrolling their staff in a workplace pension scheme. From 1 October 2012 and depending on PAYE scheme size & reference, employers will be obliged to automatically enrol eligible employees and make mandatory employer contributions into a qualifying workplace pension scheme



Representatives of INF Hilltown, regular visitors to the AGM.

or the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). Employers will be given a date from which they must auto-enrol (called their staging date) by the Pensions Regulator.

The Government previously published a staging timetable, which set out the dates by which employers must begin

to auto-enrol, however the Government has now published a revised automatic enrolment staging timetable which follows its announcement in November 2011 that it would revise the original timetable so that small businesses (i.e. those with fewer than 50 employees) would be given more time to prepare

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and would therefore only begin automatic enrolment from May 2015, instead of the previously intended timing of April 2014. Under the revised timetable, there is no change to the staging dates for large employers with 250 or more employees.

Under the staging timetable, all existing employers will have enrolled their staff by April 2017, followed by all new employers by February 2018.

The level of pension contributions will be phased in over time to help employers and workers adjust. Full contributions will have to be paid from 1 October 2018.

Fire Risk Assessments are of course a legal requirement and as such the Federation advise securing the services of a reputable company such as Aviva.

The use of foreign satellite receivers was discussed and of course the Portsmouth landlady case. We continue to remind clubs that all is not settled and we continue to advise that clubs sign-up to the Sky Club package, currently available at £420 per month. Our position remains unchanged in that we advise clubs not to be tempted to use foreign receivers.

The PRO requested that, where and when possible, member clubs should secure supplies from our established suppliers in return for the support they have provided to the Federation over many years which has assisted in retaining membership fees at the same level since inception of the Federation.

An increase in the Federation membership fee was suggested by a club delegate requesting that the fee be increased



(L-R) R.A.O.B. HQ Belfast Manager, Tom McNaught with Federation accountant Lawrence Shearer.



Representatives from Albert Foundry Sports & Social Club.

from £50 to £75 per year. The proposal was voted on and carried by a majority of those present. However it was highlighted that there is almost a year until the said fees are payable again and while the Federation appreciates the gesture and outcome of the proposal we feel it should be the subject of further discussion in the interests of our wider membership and in consideration of the economic climate. We are naturally pleased with the sentiment expressed as it shows the appreciation clubs have for the work carried out by the Federation.

The PRO provided information on the Performing Rights Society outlining that at a

meeting with representatives the possibility of a lower tariff was outlined. Members will be updated as soon as information becomes available on this matter.

Details of the dinner & dance in the Kings Hall on Saturday 21st April 2012 outlined that it will feature the fabulous "Contrast" with the one and only May McFettridge topping the bill.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking Mr Tom McNaught and his management team at the R.A.O.B. H.Q. for hosting the meeting and for the generous hospitality provided.

Bob McGlone,
Secretary, NIFC

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White Star Line flag flies in Belfast again

Harland & Wolff Welders Football and Social Club provided the setting for the unfurling of the White Star Line flag at 12noon on Friday 30th March 2012 – the first time the flag had flown over Belfast in 100 years.

It was appropriate that the unfurling of the specially commissioned flag was at the historic East Belfast Club given its long association with the iconic Belfast Shipyard.

This was one of a number of events to be hosted in Belfast and throughout the UK in this, the Centenary Year of the launch and tragic sinking of RMS Titanic, surely the most famous ship in history.

The honour of unfurling the flag was given to local DUP Assembly Member Sammy Douglas MLA. Sammy said “I was delighted to have been asked to unfurl the White Star Line flag in acknowledgement of the innovation and ingenuity of the world’s most famous ship, RMS Titanic. I would like to pay tribute to the members of Harland & Wolff Welders Football and Social Club for organising this event.”



Sammy Douglas M.L.A., was guest of honour at Harland & Wolff Welders FSC for the unfurling of a specially commissioned White Star Line flag.

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Government finally scraps VAT on gaming machines

The Government have listened to the views of clubs and their suppliers and have decided to exempt income from VAT on gaming machines.

Following a review they have confirmed that from February 2013, as well as exempting gaming machine income from VAT, they intend to replace Amusement Machine Licence Duty (AMLD) with Machine Games Duty (MGD). This will apply to any machine where the player inserts a stake into a machine in the hope of winning a cash prize.

Chris Haley, Managing Director of UK company Dransfields, said change was

inevitable given the amount of VAT the Treasury was losing through legal challenges.

“The Rank/Linneweber fiscal neutrality challenges alone amount to tens of millions of pounds in potential lost VAT revenue - although the Revenue continue to dispute the cases,” he said.

“I am broadly in favour of the new tax especially as the Government listened to our concerns surrounding B3A and agreed to exempt the product from MGD. This demonstrates that the Treasury understands the unique position that not-for-profit clubs, owned by their members, hold within the

communities in which they are based and that the tax-free B3A machine provides a much-needed source of revenue for struggling clubs.

“I also think that the removal of the disproportionate licence duty charge of £2,185 per annum on jackpot B4 machines will assist clubs as this enormous cost is incurred regardless of how well the machine to which it relates actually performs.

“Under MGD, the tax will be progressive and will be cashbox-based - in other words the tax payable will be directly related to machine performance with lower-earning machines paying less; of course.”

The rate being applied is 20% with a lower rate of 5% being applied to machines with a 10p stake and maximum payout of £8.

This may be viewed as an opportunity for clubs to increase the number of gaming machines in their premises as there will be no upfront licence fee to pay.



The main issue will be the non-recoverability of input tax relating to VAT exempt supplies; the ramifications of this will be provided to members when all the details have been scrutinised.

In consideration of our members we will engage in meetings with our suppliers to fully evaluate the impact these changes will have on the Registered Club sector in Northern Ireland.

While on the face of it this seems to be a progressive step, the Federation await to see if there is a hidden agenda.

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How to use CCTV in disciplinary hearings

Clubs can use closed circuit TV (CCTV) images as part of a disciplinary procedure - provided they follow the right procedures. Follow and document the procedure below and you will ensure that your club complies with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), the CCTV Code of Practice and other relevant legislation and demonstrate that the club has taken all steps possible to protect the personal information of anyone captured by CCTV footage.

The approved procedure is as follows:

1. Acknowledge that the club does have CCTV in place, with appropriate signage. State that the function of the CCTV is to prevent crime

and protect public safety. Remind the staff that the use of CCTV in disciplinary proceedings is referred to in their employment contract and the employee handbook.

2. State that the CCTV allegedly caught an employee committing a disciplinary offence (which may also be deemed to be a criminal act) in the course of their employment. The CCTV footage may also show images of other staff not involved in the offence/crime.

3. State that the club wishes to use the CCTV images in connection with the disciplinary proceedings against the staff members. The CCTV footage may also

be made available to the police.

4. State that the club recognises that the CCTV images contain personal information and therefore to comply with the DPA they cannot be disclosed or released. However, section 35(2), DPA exempts the CCTV images from the non-disclosure provisions of the DPA where they are used for the purposes of, or in connection with, legal proceedings.

5. State that in the opinion of the club the disciplinary proceedings constitute legal proceedings in the light of the alleged criminal activity, and therefore the proposed use of the images in connection with the disciplinary proceedings is exempt from the non-disclosure provisions of the DPA.

6. State that the staff member will be given a chance to view the CCTV images and to fully explain and/or challenge their content.

7. Where relevant, state that the club has investigated the possibility of obscuring the images of other staff members, and whether or not this was possible. The obscuring of the identity of persons not relevant to the alleged misconduct should be attempted before the CCTV footage is shown to the staff member.

8. State that circulation of the images will be restricted to those attending the disciplinary meeting and those attending are covered by confidentiality provisions.

Clubs should ensure that they document the above process within their meeting notes before release of the CCTV images, otherwise they will breach the DPA.

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Equality Act 2010

The 2010 Equality Act continues to cause difficulties in clubs so here's a reminder of what it does and doesn't say.

The Act sets out a list of what are called "protected characteristics" that cannot be used as means of discrimination.

The Act allows clubs to restrict membership to certain characteristics but not others. It is acceptable to have a men-only club but if, like 99% of our clubs, women are allowed to be members or guests they must be treated equally. It is no longer legal in these clubs to have men-only bars, cheaper but restricted membership for women or not to allow women on the Committee.

These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief (or lack of belief), sex, sexual orientation.

It is still legal to offer different rates on grounds of age though



there are proposals to stop this as well. Family membership is permitted provided it does not refer to husband and wife, or otherwise assume people are heterosexual.

If they have not done so already clubs need to:

- update their rules to remove all reference to gender;
- make procedures clear and open to eligible members regardless of gender;
- make subscription rates for members the same for men and women. It is still legal to offer different rates based on age but there are proposals to stop this.
- review all activities they organise on a male or female basis and ensure they can defend themselves and not contravene the Act.

It remains illegal to have a club that restricts membership because of the colour of people's skin though you can restrict by ethnic origin. The

example given by the Home Office is: "The constitution of the Black Women's Culture Club states that membership is open to any woman whose national origins are in Africa or the Caribbean. This would be permitted because, even though colour is referred to in the name, it restricts membership based on ethnic origin rather than colour."

Home Office guidelines also state that "private clubs can treat men and women differently in any sport, game or activity of a competitive nature where the physical strength, stamina or physique of the average woman puts her at a disadvantage compared with the average man, or vice versa."

You would think the Government would have better things to think about but this effectively gives the green light for clubs to have women's darts teams but not women's dominoes teams.

Rise in tobacco tax welcomed by UCF

The 5% real term rise in tobacco has been warmly welcomed by the Ulster Cancer Foundation (UCF) which had lobbied for this level of increase to help smokers quit and dissuade children from taking up the habit.

UCF is delighted that the Chancellor acknowledges that raising tobacco duty is a key component of a comprehensive strategy to reduce smoking.

Gerry McElwee, Head of Cancer Prevention UCF, said, "This is excellent news. We are delighted that the Chancellor has listened to the voices of the health community and taken decisive action to tackle the greatest single cause of ill health and premature death. Increase in tobacco taxation



is the most effective way of encouraging smokers to quit. We welcome this increase as it also ensures most brands of cigarettes are out of the price range of many young people. This makes it much less likely that the next generation will be seduced into taking up smoking."

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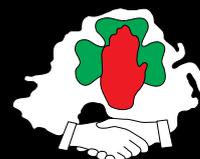
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Questions & Answers

Q. I have been informed that a single objection to a membership application from an existing member should disqualify the candidate from election to membership. I have always been under the impression that the committee had sole discretion over membership applications.

A. You are correct. Whilst members may object to a person's application for membership, it is the committee that makes the final decision in accordance with the requirements of the club's own individual rules. It is usual for two votes against admission to exclude a candidate. Therefore, it is possible to have a situation whereby no members object to a nomination but the candidate is rejected by a committee, or where several members object to a nomination and the committee elect the candidate to membership. Ultimately, the authority to elect or reject candidates for membership is vested solely in the committee.

However, a committee would be wise to consider the views of members when making their decision to elect a candidate for membership, since this is the reason why candidates' names are posted on the club notice board prior to election taking place.

Q. Is a sub-committee able to spend club funds without prior authorisation from the committee on each occasion?

A. Whilst sub-committees can elect their own officers and adopt their own procedures they are ultimately always responsible to the committee. They are not usually entitled to make decisions affecting the club without the approval of the committee. This is especially true where the sub-committee makes proposals involving the use of club funds. For example, the entertainment or social sub-committee could be charged with running the annual dinner or a monthly dance. As such it should either obtain an estimate cost for approval by the committee, or that the committee must specify a maximum sum within which the sub-committee plans its expenditure. If the sub-committee finds it cannot contain spending within the limit laid down, it must report back to the committee giving its reasons and asking for the limit to be raised.

The mechanics may not be the same in each club but the principle to be observed is that sub-committees must have the approval of the committee for what they wish to do.

Q. In the past the committee have had cause to expel certain members from the club due to their conduct. A question has been raised over whether an expelled member, which we refer to as a 'life ban', could ever reapply for membership?

A. Under the rules of most clubs, a member who has been expelled from the club can only reapply for membership with the consent of the committee and even if that consent is given, the committee can still vote against the admission of a candidate. Careful consideration should always be given to the request

of previously expelled members to reapply for membership. A previous committee would not have taken such a decision lightly. Also bear in mind that whilst a simple majority is required for a committee to agree that a previously expelled member can reapply for membership, the actual re-election to membership normally only needs two votes against to exclude a candidate. Therefore an agreement that an expelled member can reapply is certainly not a guarantee of re-election.

Q. At our club's recent Annual General Meeting, some members asked why the item 'Any Other Business' was not on the agenda. Unfortunately, whilst I have never included this item, I was unable to give a reason which they found acceptable. What is your view?

A. The item 'Any Other Business' is totally out of place on the agenda of a General Meeting for the simple reason that it gives no information or notification to members of matters which may be brought up and dealt with. The sole purpose of an agenda is to inform members of what is to be discussed, thereby giving an opportunity to decide on whether to attend the meeting. 'Any Other Business' would permit any matter to be raised and voted on without proper notification.

Clubs are often advised to conduct an 'open forum' after the meeting has closed since this provides an opportunity for members to raise matters with the committee, without the outcome of such discussion being binding upon the club. Should any member have any particular matter of concern then

he or she should raise it with the secretary for inclusion on the agenda as a specific item in accordance with the procedure set out in the club's rules.

Q. We have a member who has been proposed and seconded for election to the committee but due to a previously booked holiday he will not be able to attend the AGM. Will this prevent him from being elected onto the committee?

A. A member needs only to be proposed and seconded in order to be placed on the ballot for election to the committee. Technically, once proposed and seconded a member does not need to be present at any point during the AGM, or the period leading up to the AGM, in order to be properly elected.

Q. We are still pursuing a claim for interest on the club's Linneweber 1 repayment although we are not sure which HMRC office is now dealing with this matter. Do you know which HMRC office is best placed to deal with correspondence of this nature?

A. You have highlighted a very interesting point. I would suggest that your letter requesting payment of "official interest" is sent to your local HMRC 'VAT Error Correction Team'. You should have already received correspondence from this team in relation to the confirmation of the Linneweber 1 repayment. There is no doubt that your claim has been travelling around the HMRC system.

The official interest calculation should work out in the region of 36% of the refund which you have received and is therefore, as I have previously advised, worth claiming.



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Ulster Cancer Foundation Wonder Woman Challenge



Wonder Woman Niamh Callan, from Larne, is pictured taking off to sign up for the Ulster Cancer Foundation (UCF) Wonder Woman Challenge which took place on Sunday 1st April.

Wonder Woman challenged ladies of all ages to test their brains and brawn in an action packed day in Belvoir Forest Park. All money raised went to fund UCF's vital services which are free to use by all cancer patients across Northern Ireland. Activities ranged from puzzling mental tasks to gladiator duels and there was even the chance to take part in one of Ireland's fastest growing pastimes – laser clay pigeon shooting!

Niamh said, "I was delighted to support the Ulster Cancer Foundation by taking part in this exciting challenge that tested my physical and mental skills. As well as raising money for all the wonderful work the charity does with cancer patients and their families, this really was a dynamic way to challenge yourself, enjoy the fresh air and get in great shape. It was great that lots of women jumped onboard for UCF – it was brilliant fun."

Participants met at the Ramada Plaza, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast, on Sunday, 1st April, for a 10am start. Following a briefing from organisers, the challengers were let loose in Belvoir Park Forest



Supporting Niamh Callan's challenge is (L-R) Sarah Atcheson, Claire Hudson, Lisa Mallon and Marlene Harrison.

where they showed off their metal.

Those taking part paid a deposit of £20 plus a minimum sponsorship of £100.

To find out more about upcoming events just click on www.ulstercancer.org/events or contact Sarah Atcheson on 028 9068 0765 or sarahatcheson@ulstercancer.org

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Join the Belfast Marathon for 'Friends'



Ann Connor (centre) is accompanied by (left) model Nicola Carson and (right) Kelly Graham from Friends of the Cancer Centre to launch the charity's annual Belvoir Forest and Lagan Valley Walk which takes place on Saturday 2nd June.

This Bank Holiday Monday 7th May, Friends of Cancer Centre would like you to put your best foot forward and join them to take part in the 2012 Belfast City Marathon.

- Marathon Walk. (9 miles or 26.2 miles)
- Team Relay Event. (Two to five participants per team - mixed or same sex).
- Fun run (3 miles).

Colleen Shaw, Director of Friends of the Cancer Centre says; "This year the charity itself is looking for friends and is issuing a challenge to all of us to get behind it's fund raising through the Belfast Marathon. As a way to raise funds to help support cancer patients and their families - taking part in the Belfast City Marathon is not a bad way to spend a morning. It's good exercise and sure you can have a bit of fun with your mates along the way too. The 'Friends' team are only a phone call away, offering information on what is required to register to run the Marathon for 'Friends' before the registration closes on Friday 20th April."

There are several options:

- Marathon Run/Wheelchair Race. (26.2 miles)

The sad fact that cancer touches such a huge number of lives makes the work of Friends of the Cancer Centre relevant and important to us all but, as Friends' Director Colleen Shaw, emphasises, the charity needs more than goodwill. She says, "It seems that everyone recognises the need to fund patient comforts, care and research and values our work in those fields, but we need to turn that approval into action.

To sign up with 'Friends' today, contact Kelly on 028 9069 9393 or email info@friendsofthecancercentre.com. You will receive a 'Friends' t-shirt or running vest and a sponsorship form to help you get started raising funds for Northern Ireland's Cancer Centre.

Suicide Awareness and Support Group

Suicide is a complex phenomenon, with various causes and no straightforward explanations, it is a personal tragedy for those touched by a suicidal death and is also a serious underestimated community health problem.

The Suicide Awareness and Support Group first met in May 2000. The families realized that they could support each other in a safe and caring nurturing environment as they journeyed through their suicidal bereavement. The bond of losing a loved one to suicide was the foundation the weekly support group was built upon with the same ethos remaining intact in 2012.

The grief and suffering caused to families and friends affected by a suicidal bereavement are immense and often require immediate support and help. The grieving process is often shrouded by stigma and silenced by shame and it is only when suicide is talked about in a safe and nurturing environment that this stigma will be reduced.

On the 9th October 2007 SA&SG opened premises 209 Falls Road, which created a new chapter for the group. The Suicide Awareness and Support Group offer counseling, complimentary therapies, home visits, volunteer befriending, advice and advocacy for those bereaved or those at risk of suicide.

The SA&SG host two weekly support groups for those affected by a suicidal bereavement. A male

bereavement group meet every Monday at 8.00pm, and the family bereavement support group meet on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. The support group is facilitated by family members where individuals can share the pain of their loss in a caring, compassionate and hopeful environment with others who have shared a similar loss.

The aims of the SA&SG are: "To enhance the lives of those affected by suicide and to support those at risk of suicide"

Raising suicide awareness and suicide prevention have been important aspects for the Suicide Awareness and Support Group since they were first established and believe that "Suicide prevention needs to be everyone's business"

SA&SG

209 Falls Road, Belfast

Telephone

028 9023 9967

Email

suicideawareness@hotmail.com



Smooth move from Tennent's NI

It's one of the most talked about new brands of recent years and now it's pouring in Northern Ireland.

In March Tennent's NI officially launched the innovative new Caledonia Smooth, an imaginative new beer for Northern Ireland with a taste that's all its own ... and pricing that offers consumer value and club profitability.

Sector leaders and licensees from the Province's pubs and clubs gathered in downtown Belfast to experience the brand ... and get some invaluable business advice from television's favourite mentalist, academic and internationally acclaimed business motivator, David Meade. He gave insider advice on how to excite consumers and 'psych' them into taking that first sip of something different.

Nicola McCleery from Tennent's NI said, "As a business we've always been committed to innovation and that ethos has never been more valuable than in today's challenging marketplace. The licensed trade has been buffeted by the twin effects of these austere times and changing leisure patterns and we believe that, to survive and prosper, we all need to be doing things not only differently, but also better. For us that means creating great new products which offer significant returns to outlets in difficult trading times.

"Having the advice of a television mentalist at our launch was certainly a fresh approach, but, however entertaining, it wasn't simply an attention-grabbing novelty. David's charismatic



David Meade is pictured (2nd from left) with (l-r) Federation executive committee members, Harry Beckinsale, David Larmour and John Davidson.

and entertaining television personality is already well known to national television audiences and he has earned a serious international reputation as an inspiring, motivational speaker, complementing an academic career as a university lecturer here in Northern Ireland and visiting lecturer in North America. He brought not only business acumen and vision, but also hands-on experience of on-trade management gained on major projects in the US. That's a fabulous blend which sits perfectly with the all-new Caledonia Smooth ... itself a fabulous combination!

"We were delighted to re-emphasise our ongoing investment and innovation programme with the unveiling of this amazing new product to a professional audience who clearly appreciated both its qualities and its capacity to

help us all to do better business, even in the midst of difficult economic times. While advice from the inside track on how we can best influence and please our customers is always welcome, we all know that nothing is as attractive to the consumer as a great quality product backed up with quality service and an attractive price point."

The launch initiated licensees in the art of pouring Caledonia Smooth correctly, focusing on the origins and qualities of the product. Taking the trade through the product paces was the creative The F&B Partnership, celebrated for quirky workshops specially created for the food and beverage sectors.

Caledonia Smooth which will roll out with immediate effect is a nitrogenated draught ale which settles like a stout, with a

creamy head that lasts the length of the pint. Light and creamy with a rich amber colour, it delivers a memorable and perfectly balanced flavour with a pleasant, hoppy bitterness, offset by the slight sweetness of the malt roast backnote. At 4% ABV, Caledonia Smooth has the same shelf life as lager and is available in 50L kegs.

Nicola McCleery added, "Innovation is at the very core of the Tennent's NI business and we like to pack a few surprises and a fresh approach into everything we do, but the real surprise of our launch – and the undoubted star – was of course the product itself. Born of heritage, Tennent's unique brewing skills and our customary market insight, Caledonia Smooth is an entirely new drinking experience and it is one which we feel will bring commercial benefits to our partners in the licensed trade."

Music benefits your club

Music is a fantastically powerful and valuable business tool, it can increase footfall, motivate staff and help create an atmosphere. The benefits are significant; music in shops encourages customers to spend longer browsing, music in clubs and restaurants is crucial for cultivating the right environment and music in hairdressers and beauty salons keeps customers entertained and relaxed. In short, music works!

Of course, like any other business tool, music has to be paid for and there are two companies in the UK that exist to ensure that this happens, PPL and PRS for Music. They do this by granting licences for the use of recorded music in businesses.

By law, if recorded music is 'played in public' (i.e. played in any context other than a domestic one) every play of every recording requires the permission of the copyright owners. PPL and PRS for Music were set up to simplify this process. PPL collects and distributes money for the use of recorded music on behalf of record companies and performers. PRS for Music collects and distributes money on behalf of songwriters, composers and publishers. The licences offer businesses access to a huge repertoire of music.

PPL and PRS for Music are separate organisations, but both work to raise awareness of the legal requirements and business benefits of music licensing, and

help businesses to obtain the licences they need. PPL and PRS for Music are committed to customer service and both operate a code of practice. Businesses in the UK will usually require both licences in order to legally play recorded music on their premises.

To find out more about music licensing and how it can work



for your business visit
www.musicworksforyou.com

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Beverage Brands launches new WKD Club Edition

Beverage Brands is embarking on a highly targeted launch for a new 'Club' variant of WKD.

The new line - WKD Club Edition - has been developed specifically for the late night venue/club sector, and Beverage Brands is making it available from the end of March to approximately 20 outlets in Northern Ireland. The primary target audience for the WKD Club Edition is 18 to 25-year old males.

WKD Club Edition is packaged in distinctive, stylish black 275ml bottles featuring innovative ultra violet-activated graphics on the neck and front labels of the bottles, making them highly visible in the late night environment for which they have been created.

The flavour of the 4% ABV liquid is equally intriguing and, as with the WKD Blue, Iron Brew, Red and Purple variants, Beverage Brands is leaving consumers to identify and interpret the unique taste without giving any clues on the flavour profile.

Beverage Brands is suggesting that the price point for WKD Club Edition should be aligned with that of the other four WKD variants, and that it should be positioned on the top shelf of the chiller cabinet for maximum impact.

Stockists will be supplied with comprehensive promotional kits comprising: back-bar trim; UV bar runners; screen advertising loops; posters with headlines such as 'Shiny and New - WKD Club Edition

Exclusively Available Here'; and UV t-shirts printed on the front/reverse with 'Welcome To The Club/WKD Club Edition Exclusively Available Here'. The new WKD Club Edition will also benefit from the halo effect of the broader based WKD marketing and advertising campaign.

Commenting on the new initiative, Debs Carter, Beverage Brands Marketing Director, said, "One of the key components of our marketing programme this year is to focus on developing bespoke activity which will maximise the sales opportunity for WKD in different trading channels and the WKD Club Edition has been born out of that objective.

"WKD is very much part of the late night, high energy social occasion and we wanted to create a concept which was highly relevant in that environment. That's exactly what WKD Club Edition sets out to do in terms of the design of the bottle, the UV activated labels and the 'Club Edition' descriptor."



She continued, "When we researched the concept with consumers they were intrigued by the bottle design - it definitely made them want to buy it and try it - and we had great consumer reaction to the taste.

Part of the appeal also lies in the fact that it is a 'Club Edition' which gives it an air of 'exclusivity' as consumers said they would only expect to find it in a club or late night venue - hence our seeding in a small number of selected outlets."

"WKD Club Edition undoubtedly adds an exciting new dimension to the WKD range in a very clearly defined sector of the market. It's new, it's different, it stands out from the crowd and it has the backing of the WKD brand name - all of which combine to deliver a very strong brand proposition for consumers socialising in a late night environment."



Tennent's NI are winners at Down Royal

It's win-win for Tennent's NI and Down Royal Racecourse with the announcement that a three year pouring rights agreement has been reached which will bring Northern Ireland's leading beer and cider brands to the Province's favourite racetrack. The partnership will see not only an agreement on pouring rights, but also the wider involvement of Tennent's NI and its brands at Down Royal.

Announcing details of the deal, James Simpson of Tennent's NI, said, "Tradition and sociability are core values for our major brands and those are attributes which we see reflected in the unsurpassed atmosphere of a day at Down Royal. Tennent's, Magners and the other leading beers and ciders which make up

our 'stable' are perfectly at home in the great social occasions which surround the 'sport of Kings' and we are delighted to continue and, indeed, strengthen the link which we forged with Down Royal last year."

Welcoming support from Tennent's NI, Mike Todd, General Manager of Down Royal, said, "We see the partnership of Tennent's NI and Down Royal as a winning combination of two leading and instantly recognizable brands in Northern Ireland. We are delighted to be able to offer our customers their favourite brands at the racecourse, which will integrate seamlessly with our existing quality stakeholders and further enhance our race-goers experience."



James Simpson (right) and Annemarie McDonagh, Tennent's NI, celebrate with Mike Todd, General Manager of Down Royal, after signing a three year pouring rights agreement. The deal will see Northern Ireland's favourite brands Tennent's and Magners at one of the most popular and successful race tracks in Ireland.

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Ulster and Monaghan captain Darren Hughes with his February Award.

Picture by Peadar McMahon.

UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award

Sales representative Darren Hughes certainly marketed his footballing talents during February with a number of fine displays with both Monaghan and Ulster, playing the true captain's role.

For his February action, Darren is named as the Quinn-direct Ulster GAA Writers' Merit Award winner for the Leap Year month but admits his surprise at the honour.

"There were a lot of top games and very good performances, including Loughgiel's All-Ireland semi-final win and Liam Watson's 17 points, so I am really surprised at getting the Merit Award for February," said Darren (25).

"Of course, I'm delighted. It is a great honour. I have been very aware of the monthly Merit Award and I saw that Seamus Quigley won it for January. It is great to get my name among the winners. It is really a privilege."

It is only his second individual award, the other being named Man-of-the-Match in the Monaghan final last year. However, that honour was somewhat blighted by the fact that Scotstown was beaten by Latton.

"My only other awards have been the recent Railway Cup (Interprovincial Championship) medal, a Sigerson Cup medal won with UJU in 2008, a Compromise Rules medal and a Senior League medal with my club," he recounts. It is not too bad a list!

Hughes is a firm supporter of the interpro series and hopes that it is better treated and restored to a permanent place in the calendar.

For his February 2012 Merit Award, he overcame the opposition of Owen Mulligan (Tyrone) and Liam Watson (Loughgiel). The presentation was made to Darren, at a function in Paudge Quinn's Corner on Monday, March 5, by Quinn-direct Commercial Area Manager Shane Wilson.

The award includes an engraved Belleek Living vase, specially designed silver cuff links by Omeath jeweller Garrett Mallon, an UGAAWA Sports Voucher and training gear from O'Neill's International Sports. He will also receive two complimentary tickets and overnight accommodation for the UGAAWA Silver Jubilee banquet, at the Great Northern Hotel on Friday, November 16.

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AIB Inter Provincial Awards



Pictured at the AIB Provincial Player Awards 2011 are (back row from left) Leinster hurling winner Cathal Parlon, Coolderry, Co. Offaly and Ulster hurling winner Joey Scullion, Loughgiel Shamrocks, Co. Antrim, (middle row from left) Leinster football winner Dessie Dolan, Garrycastle, Co. Westmeath, Munster hurling winner Shane Dowling, Na Piarasaigh, Co. Limerick, and Ulster football winner Jamie Clarke, Crossmaglen Rangers, Co. Armagh, (front row from left) Connacht football winner Frankie Dolan, St. Brigid's, Co. Roscommon, Uachtarán CLG Criostóir Ó Cuana, Billy Finn, General Manager, AIB Bank, and Munster football winner Colm Cooper, Dr. Crokes, Co. Kerry.

Picture credit: David Maher/
SPORTSFILE

Tesco All-Ireland Junior Post Primary Schools Championship Finals Captains Day



Ladies Gaelic stars of tomorrow gathered in Croke Park in March ahead of the Tesco Post Primary Schools Junior All-Ireland Finals which took place on Saturday 31st March. Schools from Tipperary, Tyrone, Galway, Wexford and Dublin have reached this year's Tesco Junior A, B and C finals. Pictured are captains (from left), Darina Keane, Scoil Bhríde Mercy, Tuam, Co. Galway, Hannah Murphy, St. Mary's, New Ross, Co. Wexford, Olivia Divilly, Dunmore Community School, Co. Galway, Niamh McGirr, Loreto Grammer, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, and Eabha Ruitléis, Coláiste Íosagáin, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Croke Park, Dublin.

Picture credit: Paul Mohan/SPORTSFILE

David Jeffrey collects 30th NIFWA Manager of the Month award



Linfield manager David Jeffrey collected his 30th Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Manager of the Month award, for his side's performances in February. Jeffrey's men started the month with a 5-0 win over Crusaders, which they followed up with a 1-1 draw against Portadown and a 3-1 win over Cliftonville at Solitude, as well as making progress in the Irish Cup.

Jeffrey said, "It means an awful lot to me to win this award for a 30th time and I'd like to thank the football writers for this award and for their coverage

of the local game. While many people in the media are saying the league is over, that's not true. As far as we are concerned there is a long way to go and we will continue to fight for every victory."

Jeffrey won his first award in February 1998 and has picked up a trophy every season since, apart from 2002/03. He has won the award three times in a row, on two separate occasions. It has been a long wait for the Blues' boss to reach the landmark. This is his first award of the season, his last being in April 2011.



Linfield manager David Jeffrey, receives his 30th Carling Sponsored Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Manager of the Month award from Carling's Paula Nesbitt and Mark MacIntosh, Chairman of the NIFWA.

Newry's striker Marty Havern wins player of month award

Newry City's diminutive forward Marty Havern became the second Newry City player to win the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Championship Player of the Month award this season.



Newry City's, Marty Havern, receives his N.I.F.W.A. Championship Player of the Month award.

The former Glenavon striker said, "We're doing very well at the moment and, if we can keep that up, hopefully we can get promotion. We're doing our best to catch Ballinamallard, but if we can't do that then we need to make sure we've at least come second and secure a place in the play-offs. Personally, it's brilliant to win this award, and I've enjoyed scoring the goals

recently, but my good run of form has been a team effort. I couldn't have won this award without my team-mates."

Havern scored six goals in February, including a hat-trick against Ballymoney United in the Irish Cup, a brace against Loughgall in the Mid-Ulster Cup and a single strike in the league against Institute.

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Czech great breaks record

Czech athlete Jarmila Kratochvilova was one of the more distinctive sportswomen of her era, but she was noteworthy for far more than her muscular physique. Back in 1983, the Eastern Bloc countries were making significant strides towards the domination of women's athletics, and Kratochvilova was seen as the embodiment of the type of athlete they were intent on producing. She utterly dominated her 800 metres final in a fashion never seen before or since, accelerating with 300 metres to go and clearing on the top bend to win in 1 minute 54.68 seconds from Lyubov Gurina and Yekaterina Podkopayeva. More than two decades later, this time remains the fastest recorded in a World Championships final. At that time it was the third fastest 800 metres by a woman in history.



Kratochvilova at her strident best.

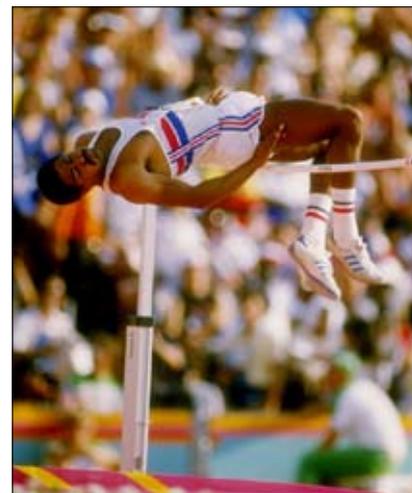
To greater astonishment, a day later, seemingly invigorated rather than sapped by her record-breaking exploits, Kratochvilova took the 400 metres title in an incredible 47.99 seconds. Not only was that a world record, it has still not been matched at a World Championships.

Thompson wins gold

Never far from controversy, Daley Thompson may have had a habit of rubbing people up the wrong way with his outspoken manner and showmanship, but he can certainly lay claim to being the greatest British athlete of all time.

By the time of the 1983 World Championships Daley was by some way the dominant force in the decathlon, having comprehensively gained the upper hand in his rivalry with German Jurgen Hingsen. The two traded records but it was Daley who remained unbeaten in all competitions between 1979 and 1987. Persistent back and knee injuries had threatened to undermine Thompson's supremacy at the inaugural World Championships in 1983. His participation in Helsinki had been touch-and-go, as he had missed over three months of training, but he decided at the last minute that a chance to get one over on his great rival was too great to resist.

Thompson got off to a typically fast start in the 100 metres, exceeded expectations in the shot-put and cleared an impressive 5.10m in the pole vault. Hingsen and fellow German Siggi Wentz were still very much in the picture for gold, however, and it took a superhuman effort from a less than fully fit Thompson to withstand their challenge. He produced one of his finest javelin throws to head into the gruelling 1,500 metres with a clear advantage over Hingsen. Despite his lack of preparation, Thompson clung on with typical grit to become Britain's first world champion.



Daley - unbeaten from 1979 to 1987.

Noah wins the French Open

Yannick Noah was rightly regarded as one of the most colourful, flamboyant and stylish tennis players of his era. His talents were never really reflected by his haul of just one Grand Slam title, memorable though that single success was.



The notoriously impatient Parisian public had waited 37 years for one of their own to taste success on the red dirt of Roland Garros, and with a number of high-profile clay tournaments under his belt, Noah, the son of a former Cameroon international footballer, was seen as their great hope.

In 1983 the dreadlocked star had already claimed victory in Madrid and Hamburg, two of the major events of the clay court season, so hopes were naturally high that he would end the French wait for a home-grown champion - and he did not disappoint.

Noah, who flattered to deceive in Grand Slam tournaments both prior to this success and after, dropped just one set over the two weeks as he found the consistency that eluded him so often before and after. He lowered the colours of defending champion Mats Wilander in straight sets in the final in front of a partisan home crowd, and in the process he became the first black male to win a Grand Slam singles event since Arthur Ashe eight years earlier.

Also this year...

Golf - Seve Ballesteros enjoyed a four-shot victory in the US Masters. At last the Americans began to appreciate his genius. He won his second green jacket at Augusta with a spectacular charge in the final round.

Sailing - John Bertrand skippering Australia II won the America's Cup, defeating Dennis Connor in Liberty, 4-3.

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