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Club Review

VOLUME 28 - Issue 8, 2015

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Minutes of the Executive meeting

Hosted by Donegal Celtic FSC, Belfast
on Tuesday 10th November 2015

The Chairman, John Davidson, invited the PRO to read the minutes of the October meeting on behalf of the Secretary, Bob McGlone, who had a hospital appointment on the day. The said minutes were proposed and seconded as a true record by Gerry Gallagher and Tommy McMinn.

Contact from clubs via the helplines was covered, with a particular emphasis on BSKyB. The association with the local BSKyB team is proving beneficial, due to the proactive approach by the Federation on behalf of its members. We are aware that the area is being policed to some effect, however, the co-operative manner in which we are working is in the best interests of the sector.

An extensive debate took place on rating and the consultation initiated by the Minister Arlene Foster. The rating of course has an effect on such things as the rates bill paid by a club and the BSKyB tariff.

Particular reference was made to a club which had been reported as promoting soccer via social media. The issue was resolved to some extent, but understandably, it is desirable that clubs have their NAV set to reflect the actual purpose for which rooms are used, for instance, a room or rooms, where televisions are located should reflect an NAV for that room(s) and the purpose for which they are used.

Nevertheless, there are wider implications in respect of the rating of a club. Although 80% is currently available on the sporting area of a club, over and above the required 20% minimum, we intend seeking to secure 100%.

Discussions opened out to include the proposed consultation on rating which was subject to an earlier petition of concern by the DUP.

A detailed financial report was provided by the Treasurer, Davy

Larmour, which was proposed and seconded as a true record by Brian McCartney and Philip Mallon.

The December meeting of the Executive Committee will be hosted by Diageo in their new Belfast offices.

At this stage the Chairman closed the meeting, with thanks being extended to the management committee of Donegal Celtic F.C. for the hospitality provided.

Harry Beckinsale, P.R.O., on behalf of the Secretary, Bob McGlone

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Your Federation continues to press for amendments to clubs' legislation



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

rubber stamped, we remain optimistic, that in the end, things will be put to rights, more especially since some issues received Royal assent as long ago as 2011.

Local government have been made aware of the need to assist the club sector if it is to maintain the financial support of sport, leisure and the considerable role played in communities throughout the province.

When in office, Minister McCausland recognised the need to revisit important aspects of the licensing legislation; which if approved, will be extremely important.

Our involvement in Minister Mark Durkan's consultation to find a way of streamlining the entertainments license procedure was interesting and provided a basis for building a much more acceptable process. Thankfully, council officials were of a like mind, having acknowledged the need to update matters.

We are presently engaged in a consultation on rating, particularly in respect to the additional 20% we wish to secure for sports clubs already in receipt of the 80%, afforded to areas utilised for a prescribed sport or leisure activity.

To be registered as a sports club a minimum of 20% of a clubs premises must be used for a sport or leisure activity listed on the rating agencies list of prescribed activities.

The importance of securing a good outcome to the rating consultation impacts on other issues such as BSkyB tariffs.

Most will be aware that screening illegal Premier League football is an offence, thankfully however, in a number of cases, a surprisingly low tariff is available which can make the use of illegal services unattractive and unviable.

As in past years, meeting the Federation's associated suppliers has established excellent lines of communication as a result of which we continue to advise management committees to open accounts with all those companies in recognition of their support of the sector. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of our suppliers. Be assured, your assistance is of immense importance.

Throughout 2015 the number of clubs reducing opening hours and staffing levels continued. Naturally, club members will be concerned. It should be recognised however, that such re-structuring is carried out with the best intentions to secure the future of the club. One could not fail to notice the similar effects the pub trade has encountered throughout the UK and Ireland.

In the main, the restriction on advertising appears, in most cases, to have given way to common sense. Of course it continues to raise its head from time to time, but hopefully in 2016 the restriction will be removed once and for all. Clubs are of course permitted to advertise, albeit in a certain way, which is nothing more than a technicality.

In summing up, I take this opportunity to thank fellow officers and members of the Executive Committee for their continued commitment

throughout the year in servicing their areas of responsibility. In particular, I pay tribute to the Federation Secretary, Bob McGlone, who has gone through a difficult year health-wise. Nevertheless, he remains committed to the work of the Federation on behalf of all members.

In addition, it is important to register our gratitude to all those companies which have supported us year on year, to include their support of Club Review, so important for conveying information to our member clubs and their respective members.

Special thanks is also extended to Media Marketing, for the range of administrative services and facilities placed at the Federation's disposal; Federation solicitor, Maura McKay of Shean, Dickson, Merrick, and Federation accountant, Lawrence Shearer of O'Hara Shearer, to name only a few. These associations are essential if we are to achieve our goals. Together, member clubs can feel reassured that, as in previous years, we will continue in the search for improved conditions for our sector members.

In conclusion, we wish club management committees and their respective members, compliments of the season and extend very best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Social media - the issues

Clubs should be aware that social media has the potential to be damaging to a club without the management committee necessarily knowing about it until it's too late. Club members may innocently post messages on social media, not knowing how damaging it can be.

A few years ago an invoice for £800 was received by the Federation for a photograph used in an in-house survey which was placed online without our knowledge. Luckily we were able to get the invoice revoked but they took quite some persuading.

Social media can undoubtedly be beneficial, but it is vitally important to always act in the best interests of your club and proceed within the rules of the 1996 Clubs Order.

Advertising is one area where a restriction remains for clubs and placing an advertisement online can lead to other sectors having the opportunity to complain. Be assured, this area is now being policed by various bodies, such as HMRC, as well as others, like Getty images, who police the unauthorised use of photography.



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Rating review update

The Department for Finance and Personnel have published a consultation paper which focuses on the existing system of non domestic rates in Northern Ireland, with the consultation period closing on 25th January.

Recent developments has seen a motion fall due to not having received cross-party agreement. When considering the content of that proposal, it was proposing to increase the 80% rating relief on community amateur sports clubs (CASC's) to 100%. However, the availability of the 100% to only CASC's is unfair to others who provide an equal contribution to sport, recreation and social community life, particularly in Northern Ireland, where the vast majority of clubs have a direct association with sport.

The financial underpinning of sport by such clubs cannot be overlooked and to provide an additional 20% to one group is discriminatory to the other. We feel that all clubs which fulfil the requirements under article 31 of the NI Rating Act should be afforded 100% relief as they make an equal contribution.

The consultation paper considers registered charities and their related level of income, with charity shops having been mooted to be of interest with the possibility of rates being applied at some level. It appears charity shops in the rest of the U.K. enjoy 80% relief. Nevertheless, we are of the view that charities provide benefits to society which are worthy of the help they receive through the current legislation.

Insurance matters

As the festive season gets underway, it's wise to take precautionary steps in your club. Following are some of the sensible steps you can take now to try to prevent any insurance claims, you may need to make, being refused, causing disruption to club business.

When accidents happen

You should have a clear statement of your health and safety policy, risk assessments, alongside an accident reporting and investigation system. This should help you reduce any Public Liability claims and help defend against them.

Had a bit too much?

Intoxicated members are far more likely to injure themselves or others, resulting in a Public

Liability claim. Remember, just because an individual is intoxicated doesn't necessarily mean they cannot allege negligence against you in court. The safe option is to stop serving people alcohol before they have that one too many.

Theft by employees!

At this time of year you could be holding significantly more money in the safe than usual, which may be more of a temptation for unscrupulous employees. If a theft occurs, insurers will ask for the written references of the staff member in question. Remember, you will need written references on record for any authorised official or employee with access to both club monies and stock.

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What happens when an employee struggles to get in during bad weather?

As Northern Ireland braces itself for another period of extreme weather, and with winter in the not-too-distant future, you should look ahead now to batten down the business hatches and prepare for what might occur as a result, specifically the possible rise in employee absenteeism.

All businesses like to stay in control of every situation, however when it comes to severe bouts of rain, wind and snow, the realm of capabilities are tested to their limits. No matter how infrequent we believe these events to be, when they do emerge, many businesses fall into disarray, which is why

implementing a contingency plan, incorporating protocols to follow in the event of these situations arising should be at the forefront of every business agenda. While you would not want staff to take unreasonable risks in attempting to get to work in difficult conditions, individual circumstances will vary greatly and therefore a single rule will not cover all eventualities.

It is important for employers to consider what they have done in the past when employees have been prevented from attending work through natural occurrences such as flooding, to ensure that their actions remain consistent and fair.



As an employer, you can expect your staff to make every reasonable effort to get to work, adapting their means of travel if necessary, even if this means they will arrive late. Employees must turn up for work as usual, unless told to the contrary. If an individual is unable to attend work because of the weather conditions they should notify you at the earliest opportunity.

Where applicable, a member of staff may be required to work from an alternative base or it may be possible for them to work from home in some cases. Such options should be discussed and agreed.

If a member of staff arrives late as a result of extreme weather it could be unfair to expect them to make up the time lost. Likewise, you should consider allowing them to leave work early because of the weather. In the case of weather worsening, or particularly hazardous conditions, they should be able to leave work earlier than usual without having to make up any time lost.

In the event your business has to close, unless you have

a contractual right to place employees on unpaid lay off (check your staff contracts for a clause which permits you to place you staff on unpaid lay off, or short time working), your staff are entitled to be paid in full for any hours they would have worked had the workplace been open for them to work. If you have had to shut down and therefore cannot provide work for your staff to do, then you must pay them.

Alternatively, if staff are simply unable to get to work due to the adverse weather conditions, employers do not need to pay staff who cannot make it into work, when the workplace is open for business. In this instance, employees can be given the choice to of taking paid annual leave, using some of their holiday entitlement, or having unpaid leave.

Hopefully, you have already implemented a plan of action in the case of the aforementioned situations occurring, but if not, it is advisable that you do with immediate attention, to prevent unnecessary employee backlash by not having a clear structure in place.

Questions & Answers

Q. We are in the process of recruiting a new Steward for the Club. Do you have any advice on the type of person we should be looking for and if we have to advertise this position externally or could we, if we had a suitable candidate, simply appoint from within the Club?

A. The Committee is free to advertise any vacancy as they see fit. Should the Committee already have a candidate in mind then there is no need to advertise the position at all, instead, the Committee can directly approach a potential candidate. In some situations it is eminently sensible not to advertise a position if the Committee already have a preferred candidate in mind. Any such decision on this matter should be taken by the entire Committee unless the Committee has designated specific Committee Members or have created a sub-committee to deal with the recruitment of employees.

Clearly, for the position of bar staff, the best candidate is likely to be a well-rounded individual, possibly with experience in the hospitality sector, who is trustworthy, well presented, personable and who will give a good impression of the Club to Members and visitors to the

Club. As with many jobs of this nature, it is often less to do with the candidates formal qualifications and experience and more to do with subjective factors such as the ones mentioned above. As long as the Committee acts in good faith regarding the recruitment process and does not appoint or determine the successful candidate on the basis of gender or race then the Committee should not have any problems regarding whom they ultimately decide to appoint.

Having said that, having a clear job specification with notes taken at interviews and the decision process minuted will also be beneficial in the case of any complaint against the Committee's selection.

Q. We had an issue with a group of Members who refused to leave the Club until they finished their drinks. This resulted in the employee on duty needing to stay longer than their employed finishing time in order to close the bar and lock the Club up. Could the bar employee have asked the Members to leave?

A. I suggest that the Committee ensures that the Club's closing times are clearly publicised and that it is also clear when last orders will be taken. This means that all Members will be aware of what time they will have to leave the Club when they order their final drinks.

Typically 20-30 minutes are permitted by a licensed establishment to allow last drinks to be consumed. Should any Member or guest refuse to leave the Club after the Club has closed I simply suggest that the police are called to

remove them. This is obviously unfortunate but a Club employee should not attempt to physically remove a Member or guest unless absolutely necessary.

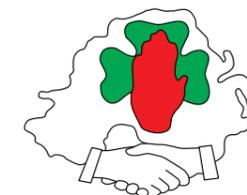
If a Member behaved in a way which meant that the Police were required to attend to the Club to remove them, the Committee would be able to convene a disciplinary hearing to discuss the incident. As a result of the disciplinary procedure, the Member could find themselves suspended or expelled from the Club.

Q. We have read recently that there is new legislation affecting the sale of cigarettes and cigars. I understand that we can continue to sell these products but that they can no

longer be visible behind the bar. Is this correct?

A. We can confirm that in order to comply with new legislation, cigarettes and cigars will no longer be able to be on public show behind the bar. You can still list the products which are available and their prices, but they will have to be kept out of sight.

If you have a question that your club needs answered then don't hesitate to contact the N.I. Federation of Clubs via telephone or email.



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WKD has Christmas rules all wrapped up

Extreme wrapping, 'Ladvent' calendars and WKD's much-loved branded festive-themed head wear are amongst the key components of the engaging, interactive digital 'Xmas Rules' campaign backing WKD.

WKD brand owner SHS Drinks started unwrapping the WKD consumer 'Xmas Rules' campaign on social media on November 28th. The activity embraces the madness of Christmas festivities when rules can be broken and over indulgence or wearing tasteless, kitschy jumpers can be justified just 'because it's Christmas'.

To get consumers in the festive mood WKD will be posting engaging content encouraging WKD's 282,000 social media fans to share their own take on 'Xmas rules' and tell everyone what they are getting up to over Christmas. Those submitting the best posts and Tweets will be rewarded with a gift from an array of WKD-style prizes designed to equip them for the festive season. Prizes will include WKD's 'Greatest Hats' - a retro of WKD's favourite festive head gear, including collectors' Christmas classics such as the Brussels sprout and turkey hats and Christ-moose

heads; Christmas jumpers; and WKD-branded gift wrapping paper.

Licensees can grab a slice of the action too thanks to a feast of festive support from WKD ranging from account-specific in-outlet activity to a selection of case deals and promotions running across the WKD range. The WKD sampling team will also be out and about bringing some Christmas cheer to pubs and clubs across Northern Ireland, and licensees will be able to create a party atmosphere by festooning their bars with a fantastic array of Christmas-themed point of sale items which will be available from the SHS Sales & Marketing team. Selected stockists will also be supplied with rate of sale driving WKD 'Greatest Hats' promotional kits enabling licensees to giveaway a selection of gifts including festive headwear with purchases of WKD to bring some fun, theatre and excitement to their festive celebrations.

Debs Carter, Marketing Director - Alcohol at SHS Drinks, WKD's brand owner, said, "By focusing WKD's Christmas support activity on three main areas - party



nights and social media which are at the hub of WKD consumers' lives; and added value promotional support for licensees to drive rates of sale -

our aim is to bring additional momentum to WKD and RTD category sales during this key trading period."



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Introducing the world's first 'Christmas Jumper Car' from Coca-Cola

Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company (HBC) Northern Ireland is encouraging responsible and safe driving practices this Christmas with the 9th annual 'Designated Driver Campaign'. The 2015 campaign is set to be bigger and better with ambassador Vogue Williams and Northern Ireland comedian Shane Todd taking to the streets to encourage party-goers to take care getting home this Christmas...and have fun doing it!

This Christmas, Coca-Cola HBC is encouraging the nation to nominate their favourite designated driver to be in with a chance of winning a visit from the world's first Christmas Jumper Car! Coca-Cola wants to find and reward those drivers across the county who stick to water or soft drinks on nights out to ensure their friends and family get home safely. With nominations accepted via the website www.DesignatedDriver.ie, the Christmas Jumper Car will make its way around the island of Ireland throughout December, arriving to delight one winning driver in each province with a boot jam-packed with prizes.

The campaign was officially launched by Environment Minister Mark H Durkan, who said, "I welcome this initiative by Coca Cola which reminds drivers to Never, Ever Drink and Drive."

"In 2014 there were 16 people killed and 62 seriously injured that can be attributed to a driver or rider being impaired by alcohol or drugs. All of these families' lives changed forever

the moment those drivers responsible took a drink and decided to drive. We have a duty to our own families and friends to ensure we are there to celebrate Christmas with them. We also have to ensure others are with their loved ones at this time of year.

Mr Durkan concluded, "The only safe level of alcohol to take, and drive, is none."

Assistant Chief Constable Alan Todd also said, "The Police Service of Northern Ireland is once again pleased to support this year's Designated Driver initiative. Our message is very simple. Do not drink and drive. Sadly, too often over the festive season our officers have to go to the homes of families and relay the devastating news that one of their loved ones have been killed or seriously injured on our roads."

"We want people to enjoy their night out, but to do so safely. Over the festive season our officers will be conducting drink driving operations to help keep people safe on our roads. To help us with that, we ask that people never drive after drinking or taking drugs, slow down whilst they are driving, wear a seatbelt at all times and drive with care, attention and consideration for others, so that we can all look forward to a safer Christmas on our roads."

The Coca-Cola Christmas Jumper Car is a Kia Sportage wrapped in Christmas jumper-like material. The classic Coca-Cola red covers the car, with typical festive patterns of white knit snowflakes and reindeer,



Pictured at Belfast City Hall for the launch of the Coca-Cola Designated Driver campaign with the world's first Christmas Jumper car are, (l-r) Peter Hughes, Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland; campaign ambassador and comedian, Shane Todd; and Environment Minister, Mark H Durkan.

topped off with a delightful Santa hat.

Speaking about the launch of the 2015 campaign, Frank O'Donnell, Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland, said, "Earlier this year we launched our larger 330ml glass bottle, offering greater value and refreshment. It is the perfect size for the designated driver and in celebration of that, we want to ensure that they have as much, if not more, fun than their friends this Christmas and are rewarded for their efforts."

Friends, family and bar staff are urged to nominate their most-deserving designated driver at www.designateddriver.ie. One winner will be selected per province and surprised over the

Christmas period with a visit by the Coca-Cola Christmas Jumper Car with prizes. Nominations must be received by Monday 14th December and winners will be visited before Christmas Eve, 24th December 2015.

Designated drivers can claim their free drinks by logging on to www.DesignatedDriver.ie and downloading a voucher. Alternatively they can enquire in participating outlets.

A full list of participating outlets across Ireland and Northern Ireland will be available on the website. The offer will be available to designated drivers in participating premises until December 31st 2015.

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Net gains as Tennent's NI kicks off new deal with the IFA



The Irish Football Association and Tennent's NI have teamed up to announce that the leading Northern Ireland drinks company will be the Northern Ireland football team's official beer partner.

As part of the six-figure investment, Tennent's NI has also secured a five year contract for the supply of draught beers and ciders to the new National Football Stadium for Northern Ireland at Windsor Park, currently nearing build completion.

The deal will see Tennent's NI's extensive portfolio supply the national stadium's football fans with its big name, familiar

flagship company-owned brands: Tennent's, Magners and Roundstone Irish Ale on tap, plus a diverse range of leading premium and speciality lagers in packaged format.

Leading the 'Cheers!' as he announced the deal with the IFA, Brian Beattie, Marketing Director at Tennent's NI, said, "This is a great association



Pictured above are (l-r) Jeff Tosh, Sales Director, Tennent's NI; Michael O'Neill, Manager of the Northern Ireland Football Team; and Brian Beattie, Marketing Director, Tennent's NI.

for us and, we're looking forward to ensuring that it isn't only the football that will be world-class! At Tennent's NI we have a great range of global brands and we're delighted to be bringing them to the IFA's new stadium whose commitment to excellence and innovation sits very happily with our own business ethos.

"It is a pleasure to be working with like-minded people at the IFA, developing the new opportunities afforded by the National Football Stadium for Northern Ireland at Windsor Park, and preparing to showcase our latest brand innovations.

"We are delighted to have won the contract to pour our products within the corporate facilities of the new stadium and in the venue's first public bar which will open in the New Year. It's an exciting project and Tennent's NI is happy to

be at the heart of the sociability which surrounds soccer."

Delighted to welcome Tennent's NI on board at the New National Football Stadium at Windsor Park, Oonagh O'Reilly Sales and Marketing Director of the Irish FA, said, "A successful commercial relationship is based on understanding each other's objectives and aspirations. The team at Tennent's NI recognised our ambition and demonstrated an appetite to partner with us on our journey. Their role in enhancing the experience at the New National Football Stadium at Windsor Park is vital and I look forward to working closely with them for the next five years."



Celebrating exciting new brands and toasting heritage at Counterpoint Ireland

As the party season arrives consumers often change their drink to toast the year's end. Spirits with mixers increase in demand. At Counterpoint we have excellent news for our customers regarding the mixer category.

Club mixers, which date back to 1852 with the world's first ginger ale and soda water, have reacted to research stating that consumers are looking for an ever more bubbly tonic water. Club Tonic, renowned for balancing delicate sweetness and gentle citrusy notes with pleasant bitterness, has introduced a more lively carbonation into its composition. Through taste trials we have received feedback

that lead us to be confident that consumers will enjoy Club Tonic with their preferred spirit more than ever this Christmas. In addition, consumers when celebrating, are looking for more choice in the mixer category. Counterpoint are delighted to announce the introduction of the Thomas Henry range, a collection of super-premium mixers and soft drinks. Thomas Henry is all about quality and unique composition, being made from exceptional ingredients. In Europe Thomas Henry is becoming the sought after brand for leading bartenders and discerning customers to enhance the finest spirits in mixed drinks, cocktails and as a sophisticated soft drink.

During the holiday season people also enjoy nostalgia and want a soft drink or a sparkling water if driving. What is more nostalgic than Club Orange? Invented in Ireland in the 1930s for the exclusive Kildare Street Club, Ireland's favourite carbonated orange drink enjoys sales that are five times the size of its nearest carbonated orange rival. Ballygowan is an important part of any Christmas offering, enjoying a huge market share in Northern Ireland of 39%. 7UP will be launching an exciting holiday season campaign that will bring nostalgia to the fore this Christmas. The total 7UP brand continues to lead the lemon and lime category with 55% market share.

Counterpoint are now the agency for Portugal's number one, and beautifully tasting lager, Super Bock. No beer has won more medals at the prestigious Monde Selection - we expect Super Bock to be the 'special one'!

We would like to wish all our customers Seasons Greetings from the people who bring you Club Mixers, Club Orange and Lemon, Britvic Juices, C&C Lemonade, Miwadi, Britvic 55, Fruit Shoot, J20 and Ireland's Original Bottled Water Ballygowan.

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*Nielsen August 2015



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Ever wondered where the name Rock Shandy came from? From Blackrock, Co. Dublin to be precise. In the 1950s a former Managing Director of the Club Soft Drinks Company was a member of the Blackrock Swimming Association. After training on a Sunday morning he would go to O'Rourke's pub in Blackrock (still open for business on the main street today) for a drink. His favourite drink was a combination of Club Orange and Club Lemon from which came the name, Rock Shandy. Today, Club Rock Shandy is famous for its refreshing qualities and is available nationwide. Accept no substitutes.

Club is the No. 1 Irish Soft drink and is a proud and active member of Love Irish Food: Club Orange, Club Lemon and Club Mixers are all available from Counterpoint Wholesale Ireland Ltd (formerly Britvic Wholesalers) who are now providing all leading spirit and beer brands. Contact our customer care team on 0808 1011 610 to stock up on club today.

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Action Cancer launches New York City Marathon 2016



If you are a runner then the New York City Marathon will definitely be on your bucket list! Action Cancer has released a limited number of early bird, discounted guaranteed places for the November 6th 2016 New York Marathon.

The first 6 places are now up for grabs, with a 50% discount on the £400 registration fee exclusive to these places. In addition if you are running with a friend there's a two-for-one registration, which means that you and a friend could register for only £200 each instead of £400 each.

Action Cancer's Arlene Creighton said, "New York is one of the six World Marathon Majors, the race day itself is spectacular - a carnival atmosphere takes over the city with 2.5 million spectators lining the streets and bands playing on every corner. Nothing prepares runners for the experience when you

complete the NYC Marathon. Go for it - sign up today - you won't regret it!"

"You don't need to be a super fit athlete to enter; all you need is the determination and the desire to make a difference. Each participant is fully supported by the Action Cancer events team and advice and help is provided for fundraising. Places will fill up fast so register with us today to take advantage of our 'early bird offer' and join the team for this life-enhancing experience."

Grainne Reid took part in NYC Marathon 2015 which was her first ever marathon, Grainne said, "Anyone who is considering running a marathon should take the opportunity to combine raising money for this great cause with training for running NYC Marathon, it's a great motivator!"

"We have all had personal experience of knowing a family



If you are a runner then the New York City Marathon will definitely be on your bucket list! Claire Gunn encourages you to take advantage of Action Cancer's early bird registration for TCS New York City Marathon on Sunday 6th November 2016.

member or friend who has been affected by cancer so being able to do a little to help make a difference means a lot."

All monies raised will fund Action Cancer's lifesaving services in Northern Ireland including breast screening, Big Bus mobile unit, M.O.T. health

checks, and complementary therapy and counselling support services.

To sign-up or learn more on how you can make a difference and what support we offer, contact Arlene Creighton on 028 9080 3379 or email run@actioncancer.org



Action your will

Lawyer turned comedian Tim McGarry joined Action Cancer to launch the charity's 'Action Your Will' campaign at the High Court in Belfast. Participating solicitors across the province are waiving their fees for basic Wills, and in lieu of payment, clients donations will help the charity's support and therapeutic services, breast screening and health checks.

Over 70% of people don't have a Will, yet Action Cancer's recent survey highlighted 97%

of people agree this initiative is a good idea.

Action Cancer is Northern Ireland's leading local cancer charity and all money raised stays in Northern Ireland, helping support people with cancer in YOUR local community.

For a list of participating solicitors and an advice document log onto www.actioncancer.org, or call Gillian Thomson at Action Cancer on 028 9080 3347.



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Festival of Racing showcases National Hunt superstars



The Northern Ireland Festival of Racing at Down Royal once again showcased National Hunt superstars on track launching their 2015 campaigns, with a superb backdrop off the track of unrivalled atmosphere and entertainment. Ruby Walsh landed the first graded race of the weekend, the Grade 3 EBF Lough Construction Mares Novice Hurdle, with the Willie Mullins trained, Listen Dear. Off the track WKD embraced the Halloween theme with samples for all racegoers delivered by their Halloween devils, whilst on the track, the Henry De Bromhead trained, Identity Thief, landed this year's WKD (Grade2) Hurdle, a race which is becoming a marker for the Champion Hurdle with Jezki landing it in 2013 - Henry De Bromhead said after the win that Identity Thief may head the same way.



Race winning jockey, Bryan Cooper, rides Identity Thief to victory in the WKD Hurdle on day 1 of the Festival of Racing.

Picture credit © Matt Mackey - Presseye.com

Paul Nicholls regained his dominance in the Powers Irish Whiskey Steeplechase on Saturday 31st October with the impressive Ptit Zig, making it his 3rd Grade 2 win taking his record to 5 wins in 7 starts over fences. Don Cossack, the highest rated chaser in Britain, proved his form powering his way to victory in the JNwine.com Champion Chase with the Paul Nicholls trained Rocky

Creek getting the better of 2013 winner, Roi Du Mee, to finish second. Sarah McEvoy, 21 year old from Jonesborough was the Victoria Square best dressed Lady fighting off stunning competition from over a hundred entrants.

Opposite: European Breeders Fund Lough Construction Ltd. Mare's Novice Hurdle race winner, Listen Dear, with jockey, Ruby Walsh.



Below: Glamour was the order of the weekend with race-goers going all out to win the fashion stakes!

In 2016 the Festival returns to its usual November dates, Friday 4th and Saturday 5th November and looks to be even bigger and better than before - find all the latest racing information at downroyal.com



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UGAAWA Annual Awards Banquet

People may feel that 2015 wasn't a high profile year on the national GAA stage for Ulster, but the display of trophies at the Ulster GAA Writers' Association Banquet, held recently in Bundoran, belied that belief.

The glittering display of silverware on show included eight All-Ireland Championship trophies, two Interprovincial awards and four National League cups. On top of that was the huge range of handball awards won at home and abroad by Paul Brady and Aisling Reilly, so it wasn't a bad season at all.

Granted, Sam Maguire refused to come north this year but those counties that won lesser

championships appreciate what they gained, just as much as Senior Football title winners appreciate their achievement.

There was hurling history made this year as, for the first time in the 28 years' history of the UGAAWA annual awards, no player from Antrim or Down was nominated for Hurler of the Year, with Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh represented. It was Tyrone captain, Damian Casey, who won the accolade.

Monaghan topped the winners' list of awards taking four of the thirteen, including Conor McManus - Male Footballer of the Year, just ahead of Fermanagh's Sean Quigley and Mattie Donnelly from



Back row (L-R): P.J. Magowan, who accepted the Services to GAA award on behalf of Jack Hannigan; Ciaran McGeary, Tyrone U21 Footballers; Damian Casey, Hurler of the Year; Frank McManus (on behalf of his son Conor), Male Footballer of the Year; Malachy O'Rourke, Personality of the Year; Mackey Rooney pictured with his wife Pauline (front right), Scotstown.
Front row (L-R): Mark Bradley, Young Achiever of the Year; Eimear Gallagher, on behalf of Geraldine McLaughlin, Ladies Footballer of the Year; Aisling Reilly, Handball Award; Karen Kielt, Camogie Player of the Year; Pauric McGurn, Communications Award. Pic by John McLuaine

Tyrone. The O'Neill County came a close second with three awards, while Donegal got two, with the Services to the GAA gong given to 102 year-old Jack Hannigan from Stranorlar.

Jack, who drives his car daily and is a pipe smoker, wasn't among the guests at the banquet but he appeared on

video with his quips 'bringing the house down'.

Antrim, Derry, Fermanagh and Cavan received one award each, with Breffni hero Paul Brady, being presented with the Chairman's Special Award due to his record five men's World Open Handball Championships, spanning the last 15 years.

The list of winners

C. McManus (Monaghan)
Male Footballer of the Year

G. McLaughlin (Donegal)
Female Footballer of the Year

D. Casey (Tyrone)
Hurler of the Year

K. Keilt (Derry)
Camogie Award

A. Reilly (Antrim)
Handball Award

Slaughtneil - **Club Award**

Tyrone U21 Footballers
Team of the Year

Scotstown
Cultural Award

Mark Bradley (Tyrone)
Young Achiever of the Year

P. McGurn (Fermanagh)
Communications Award

M. O'Rourke (Monaghan)
Personality of the Year

J. Hannigan (Donegal)
Services to the GAA

P. Brady (Cavan)
Chairman's Award

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Hick smashes a four through the covers on his way to a magnificent 405.

Graeme Hick never came close to fulfilling his abundant potential at Test level, and it was performances such as his record-breaking run at Taunton in 1988 that make his failures at the very top level such a mystery.

Playing for Worcestershire - the county side he represented throughout his entire career - Hick dismantled the Somerset attack on his way to an individual score of 405 not out. The Zimbabwean-born Hick's total was the highest innings recorded on the County Championship circuit since 1895, and was made all the more remarkable by the fact that, at one point, his side were in desperate trouble, at 132-5.

Speaking about his colleague's staggering innings, Ian Botham commented, 'I can't imagine you will see a greater innings than Graeme's today - he's certainly the best white batsman I've seen.'

Just as in Brian Lara's famous innings of 501 not out, Hick was given an early life when he avoided a big LBW shout on facing his first ball. He was later dropped on 148 but that blemish aside, Hick went on for 555 minutes of flawless batting, helping himself to 35 fours and 11 sixes - his last hundred coming off just 58 balls.

Louganis Hits Diving Board



Greg Louganis strikes his head during his ninth dive.

Not all Olympic competitors are remembered for triumphing against the odds or setting new records. Some, like American diving legend Greg Louganis, are best remembered for things they wish they had not done.

The US star was an overwhelming favourite to win the three-metre springboard event at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, but he misjudged the ninth of his 11 dives. Attempting a reverse 2.5 somersault pike, he failed to get enough distance between himself and the board, and cracked his head open as he came down. 'I didn't realize I was that close to the board,' Louganis said later, with a hint of comic understatement. He was treated for his head wound and went on to win two gold medals in Seoul, although the story could have had a tragic postscript after it became public in 1995 that the diver was HIV positive at the time of the accident. 'I was in a total panic that I might cause someone else harm,' he wrote in his autobiography, *Breaking the Surface*. 'I wanted to warn Dr Puffer (who treated his head injury in 1988 without wearing gloves), but I was paralysed. Everything was all so mixed up at that point - the HIV, the shock and embarrassment of hitting my head and an awful feeling that it was all over.' Thankfully, Dr Puffer was later given a clean bill of health.

Also this year...

Darts - Bob Anderson won the BDO World Championship, beating John Lowe 6-4. Despite a glittering career, this was to be his only World title.

Football - Thanks to goals from captain Ruud Gullit, and top goalscorer, Marco van Basten, the Netherlands defeated the Soviet Union (2-0) in the final of UEFA Euro 1988 in Munich.

Snooker - Steve Davis defeated Terry Griffiths 18-11 at the Crucible Theatre to win the 1988 World Championships.

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