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Review Club

VOLUME 30 - Issue 8, 2017



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Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Hosted by Harland & Wolff Welders FSC
on Wednesday 8th November 2017

The Federation Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting by inviting the Secretary to read the minutes of the previous meeting. The said minutes were passed as a true record by Tommy McMinn and Gerry Gallagher.

The Secretary read a report on Federation activity since the October meeting. The various items referred to in the report were elaborated upon by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Opening hours for New Year's Eve was a query received via the helpline. The Chairman confirmed that this is provided for under the 1996 Clubs Order. The Chairman has also referenced this with Francis Connolly, a DHSS department official.

HR (human resources) is one of the most contentious areas for club officials. Subsequently, the Secretary has been in discussions with David McGrath of the Labour Relations Agency. David has kindly agreed to provide informative editorial to better inform our members on HR issues, which are now arising on a regular basis.

We plan to discuss some issues with the Labour Relations Agency in respect to, what we feel in some areas, is over complicated employment legislation.

A finance issue related by a club was discussed in respect to how matters of this kind should be treated. Joe Patterson quite rightly highlighted the importance of the Federation observing discretion in respect to the advice we provide.

A submission by a former club official, related to the club of which he was formerly an official was discussed, with input by the Chairman and Assistant Secretary, Gerry Gallagher. It was subsequently agreed that, as in all cases of this kind, we can only advise the club management committee, and not individual club members.

We are delighted to have been invited to hold the Federation's December meeting at the offices of Diageo on 6th December 2017, at their Queen Street office in Belfast.

At this point the Treasurer, David Larmour, provided a financial report, which was subsequently passed as a true record by Brian McCartney and Jim McCaul.

The introduction of a travel offer by P&O, specifically for Federation member clubs, was discussed, with the committee being informed that full details will be provided when available from P&O.

Thanks was expressed to H&W Welders FSC, for hosting the November meeting, and for the hospitality which followed.

*Harry Beckinsale
Secretary
Northern Ireland
Federation of Clubs*

Notice for opening hours on New Year's Eve

Club Secretary's should note that 'Special provision is made in the Clubs Legislation, which provides for a late extension to be granted on New Year's Eve when it falls on a Sunday'.

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Your Federation - as busy as ever



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

As in previous years, Federation Executive Committee activity continued throughout 2017, with optimism that the Clubs Order and Accounts regulations would at last see the anticipated amendments to Clubs legislation being passed into law.

However, as everyone is aware, the Legislative Assembly remains in limbo.

Despite this unfortunate situation, the Federation achieved securing a preferential tariff for Sky Television, specifically for clubs which have a sports and leisure registration.

The said tariff was the culmination of three years of negotiations, which involved travelling to Sky HQ in London, discussing the issue at the CORCA meeting in London and exploratory meetings with the rating agency in Belfast.

This new tariff is now providing a tremendous benefit for our member clubs with substantial outdoor and indoor sports and leisure facilities. Previously, the Sky TV tariff would have been based on the rating NAV of the entire site.

We are now receiving numerous queries on labour relations issues, most of which are related to what appears to be over complicated employment legislation. While it is important that employees rights are protected, it is perceived that the balance of rights may well have moved too far, allowing for the abuse of otherwise good employment legislation.

Like the Legislative Assembly, the consultation on entertainment licensing, established by the then Minister, Mark Durkan, remains in limbo, despite everyone on the panel, including myself and the Federation Secretary, Harry Beckinsale, agreeing the changes to be implemented.

We continue to focus on a further dimension of rating related to registered sports clubs, which we are hopeful of achieving. With meetings being arranged, it is hoped to obtain more clarity on the areas within a club which may qualify for inclusion in the rating relief. We hope to have a positive message to convey to members by the time of the Federation AGM in March 2018.

As in past years, the support of our associated suppliers is paramount, and it is important that management committees, where and when possible, engage with those companies in recognition of their support of the sector. I wish to take this opportunity to thank

continued on page 6

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all our suppliers, be assured your assistance is of immense importance.

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 Federation Secretary, Harry Beckinsale, and Treasurer, Davy Larmour, both of whom I engage with on a daily basis. Of course, I am mindful of our late Secretary Bob McGlone, who I am certain would be delighted upon learning of our ongoing successes and continued commitment to the club sector.

In addition, it is important to register our gratitude to the companies who 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 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. 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 very best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

John Davidson

Auto Enrolment Pension - April 2018 Changes

All Clubs with eligible employees should now have enrolled into the Auto Enrolment Pension scheme. From 6th April 2018, the contributions from the employer and the employee will increase. The Club will contribute 2%, up from 1% currently, and the employee will contribute 3%, up from 1%. Further changes will occur from 6th April 2019.

Date	Employer Minimum	Employee Minimum	Total Minimum Contribution
Up to 5 April 2018	1%	1%	2%
6th April 2018 to 5 April 2019	2%	3%	5%
6 April 2019 onwards	3%	5%	8%



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Alternatively, you can find the Agency online at www.lra.org.uk

The LRA is fully endorsed by the Federation and is an excellent first

point of contact for anyone who requires impartial advice on any staff or employment issues.

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Making Tax Digital update

Making Tax Digital (MTD) is the most fundamental change to the administration of the tax system for at least 20 years. Keeping your financial records will become increasingly digital and most businesses will need to use software or apps to keep business records - the days of manual record keeping will end!

For sports and social Clubs this is probably the most important change in the administration of the tax system since the introduction of VAT in 1973.

The essential elements for Clubs are:

- **Paper records will no longer be sufficient:** It will become mandatory for almost all Clubs to use software to keep accounting records. Paper accounting records will cease to meet the requirements of tax law.

- **Quarterly reporting:** There will be a requirement to submit updates to HMRC each quarter directly from accounting software, within one month of the end of each quarter.

The Club's accountant should be able to support the Club through these changes and will hopefully provide the ongoing services that are needed. However, the changes are so fundamental that it will be necessary to review your current record-keeping systems and reconsider what work you decide to do yourself and which services you wish to outsource.

When does it start?

VAT: If the Club is registered for VAT and its takings is above the VAT threshold you will be required to keep digital

accounting records and to file your VAT returns using MTD compliant software from April 2019 (the first VAT quarter starting on or after 1 April 2019). The current online VAT return will not meet the requirements.

Corporation Tax: Clubs pay corporation tax on non mutual income usually rent and interest. The timings for Clubs MTD for corporation tax have yet to be confirmed but it will not become mandatory before April 2020.

What are the exemptions?

- There are exemptions for those who are not able to engage digitally for religious reasons or due to a factor such as age, disability or location (e.g., no availability of broadband). These exemptions are the same as the current exemptions for VAT online filing.
- VAT registered Clubs with takings less than the VAT threshold (i.e., those who have registered voluntarily) will initially be exempt from MTD VAT reporting but this exemption may be removed from 2020 or later.
- When MTD for income becomes mandatory there will be an exemption for social Clubs with a very small turnover; the level and nature of this exemption has not been set.

What does the Club need to do now?

If the Club is VAT registered and above the VAT threshold you need to start planning for your transition to MTD so that you are ready for MTD reporting for VAT by spring 2019:

1. Where we prepare VAT returns we will ensure compliance with MTD for VAT and Machine Games

Duty (MGD). We may have to make minor changes to current reporting procedures.

2. You may need to consider the possibility of a digital exclusion exemption although, however, unless you currently have this exemption it is unlikely to be granted for MTD.

3. In respect of maintenance of the Club's VAT record keeping system:-

- If the Club currently use accounting software, for example Quicken, it will need to be upgraded or new software acquired.

- If the Club currently maintain VAT records on a spreadsheet you will need to acquire software which will allow returns and updates to be made directly from the spreadsheets, or engage your accountant to do this work for you.

- If you currently prepare manual VAT records on paper your processes will need to change. The Club will need to acquire and use appropriate software or engage an accountant to do the bookkeeping and quarterly reporting.

4. To minimise reporting under MTD the Club should ensure the quarterly reporting dates for both VAT and MGD tie in to the Club's financial year end. If annual VAT accounting is in operation you should review this election and consider whether it is still beneficial.

With regards Corporation and other taxes, MTD will not become mandatory until at least 2020, by which time we should have a greater clarity of the full requirement for Clubs.

There is eighteen months to plan for these changes. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

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Questions & Answers

Q. The club hosts a poker evening each week. One of the participants is asking that the stakes limit for the game is raised. Is there a maximum stakes limit that we cannot exceed?

A. Clubs may provide facilities or equal chance card games for their members under the

exempt gaming provisions contained in Part 12 of the Gambling Act. There is a stakes limit of £10 per player per game - the limit applies to a game, not a single hand - as well as aggregate stakes limits of £250 per day and £1000 per week for each individual club. For example, the club could run a poker game for twenty-five players paying £10 each four times per week. The maximum prize in a game is £250 and the maximum charge that a club may make for participating in card games is £1 per player per day. No deductions or levies are permitted from either stakes or prizes. Where a club holds a Club Gaming Permit, the maximum participation fee is £3. Where a Club Gaming Permit is held there are no

statutory limits on stakes or prizes.

We have received the following series of questions from a club in relation to a range of issues. We hope these are useful to you.

Q. Can our club hire out any of its rooms?

A. The Club is able to hire out any of the Club's rooms and many Clubs increasingly gain important revenue from allowing the Club, or parts of the Club, to be hired for private events.

Q. When we book out a room, is the person holding the event responsible for any damage or unsuitable behaviour?

A. The person holding the event will be responsible for the behaviour of their guests and any damage which occurs. A deposit can also be taken from them and it is sensible to do so. Unsuitable behaviour from guests attending the event could result in disciplinary action being taken against the Member or, in the case of a non-member, a decision that they will not be permitted to visit the Club in the future.

Q. Should we always ask for a deposit when a private event is booked?

A. It is common for a deposit to be taken, certainly in respect of a non-member holding an event.

Q. If any damage was caused, how would we be recompensed?

A. If damage is caused, then you should take pictures of the damage and then contact the person who has hired the room. The cost of repairing the damage would normally be deducted from the deposit.

Q. Could we ask those that hire a room to vacate the premises if it was felt the clientele was

behaving inappropriately? Should we make this clear when hiring? We are thinking of such actions such as fighting, bad language, damage, etc.

A. Yes, if the behaviour of persons using the Club for a private event is not in keeping with the Rules of the Club then action can be taken. You may wish to first raise this as soon as possible with the person holding the event and if the behaviour does not improve then you can take the decision to end the event.

Q. Is our 2-tier bar pricing legal - we have one price for non-members/Members' guests and a lower price for Members?

A. It is completely legal to have a two-tier pricing policy and to charge guests more than Members when purchasing drinks.

Q. Do we have to make each guest a temporary member when hiring out a room to non-members?

A. No. Regardless of whether the event is being held by a Member or a non-member, the persons attending do not need to become Members of the Club.

If a Member is holding the event then their guests should be signed into the Club as normal, if a non-member is holding an event then the persons attending that event will not need to be signed in.

If you have a question that you would like answered about any aspect of your club business then send it to us by email to:

info@nifederationofclubs.com or alternatively by post to - Club Review, B7 Portview Trade Centre, 310 Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 1HE



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GOOD TIME FOR A  GUINNESS

Christmas comes early for clubs

with a Sky Sports bumper line up of festive football and darts

Throughout December, clubs can look forward to keeping members entertained with some massive Premier League games, exclusively live on Sky Sports. With the title race now in full swing, sports fans will head to their local venues for the pick of the action as the top teams battle it out to start 2018 on top.

Club members can also look forward to all the drama and passion of the World Darts Championships which kicks off in mid-December. The world's best will be on stage to fight it out for the ultimate title, helping to fill out venues as sports fans get into the festive spirit.

The top Premier League action Early on in December, club members will be able to see a south coast derby

between Bournemouth and Southampton followed by league leaders Man City against West Ham. Pep's men will be looking to continue their run of form and extend the gap over the rest of the title contenders.

The following weekend offers a Super Sunday to remember, helping clubs to keep members in for longer and boost trade. It's a day of derbies as Liverpool face Everton before a huge match at Old Trafford when Man U host arch rivals Man City. Manchester derbies always draw the crowds and clubs can look forward to reaping the benefits of what will undoubtedly be 90 minutes of drama and tension.

2017 will draw to a close with some fantastic fixtures including Arsenal v Liverpool, Leicester against Man U and Spurs v

Southampton. With so much quality Premier League action lined up, Sky Sports venues can enjoy a December to remember.

It's a bullseye On December 14th, the World Darts Championship will kick off, giving clubs the ideal sport to keep members entertained as Christmas approaches.

Last year's World Darts Final attracted more people into venues than any Champions League game in the whole of December 2016, showing the huge opportunity to drive football and make money from the sport.

The atmosphere of watching darts live is similar to the buzz of a venue meaning clubs can capitalise on what is an ideal sport for their members to enjoy. Clubs can think about getting creative to emulate the buzz of the live arena, perhaps handing out foam fingers and placards to members and turning up the music for the players' walk-ons to build up the tension and drama.

The World Championships runs right the way through until the New Year, offering over two weeks of opportunities to attract in sports fans and drive trade.

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Sky Sports live Premier League fixtures in December

Sat 2 Dec	Chelsea v Newcastle Utd	12.30
Sun 3 Dec	Bournemouth v Southampton	13.30
Sun 3 Dec	Man City v West Ham Utd	16.00
Sat 9 Dec	West Ham Utd v Chelsea	12.30
Sun 10 Dec	Liverpool v Everton	14.15
Sun 10 Dec	Man Utd v Man City	16.30
Sat 16 Dec	Leicester City v Crystal Palace	12.30*
Sun 17 Dec	WBA v Man Utd	14.15*
Sun 17 Dec	Bournemouth v Liverpool	16.30*
Mon 18 Dec	Everton v Swansea	20.00*
Fri 22 Dec	Arsenal v Liverpool	19.45
Sat 23 Dec	Everton v Chelsea	12.30
Sat 23 Dec	Leicester City v Man Utd	19.45
Tue 26 Dec	Spurs v Southampton	12.30
Tue 26 Dec	Liverpool v Swansea City	17.30
Wed 27 Dec	Newcastle Utd v Man City	19.45
Thur 28 Dec	Crystal Palace v Arsenal	20.00

* NB. Subject to EFL Cup but will remain a Sky



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 Man United v Man City Sun 10 Dec, 4.30pm	 Arsenal v Liverpool Fri 22 Dec, 7.45pm	 Everton v Chelsea Sat 23 Dec, 12.30pm	 Leicester v Man United Sat 23 Dec, 7.45pm	 Celtic v Rangers Sat 30 Dec, 12pm
 Newcastle v Man City Wed 27 Dec, 7.45pm	 Tottenham v West Ham Sun 31 Dec, 2.15pm	 Everton v Man United Mon 1 Jan, 5.30pm	 Arsenal v Chelsea Wed 3 Jan, 7.45pm	 Leeds v Nottm Forest Mon 1 Jan, 3pm

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World Darts Championship
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Statistics quoted refer to content shown on Sky Sports channels between 1/12/17 to 1/1/18 and are correct at the time of print: 24/11/2017 and may be subject to change. Sky Sports requires a Sky subscription, equipment and installation. Further terms apply. Calls to Sky cost 7p per minute plus your provider's access charge.

How an employee's use of drugs/alcohol outside the workplace impacts within?

These days everyone is aware of the impact drugs and alcohol can have on the workplace environment and most, if not all, businesses will have a strict drugs and alcohol policy in place. Societal use of drugs and alcohol has undergone a dramatic change in recent years in terms of attitude towards drink driving and drug use as well as the introduction of so-called legal highs, so it's important to also look at how an employee's use of substances outside the workplace can have drastic implications within.

Danny Clarke, group operations director for the ELAS Group, explains, 'Most people these days know the dangers of drinking

and driving and will make alternative arrangements to get home ahead of a big night out. Few people, however, consider how long it takes alcohol to leave their system and there's a good chance that someone may still be over the legal limit when driving to work in the morning.

'People sometimes raise questions about activities that are undertaken outside of work and why they would have an impact on work, so it's important to look closer at the issue.

'We recently came across an example where a company had a warehouse operative whose role included forklift truck driving. The forklift is not road registered

and he only drives it within the confines of the business premises. The employee was convicted of drug driving and received a 22 month driving ban; this did not directly affect his employment as he did not have to drive a company vehicle in his role. However, when his MD mentioned the driving ban to the company insurer at renewal time he was told that they could not insure the employee to drive the forklift as his drug use made him an unacceptable risk. The employer was left with no other alternative but to terminate the employee as he was not legally able to carry out his duties due to lack of insurance.

'Statistics show that four drivers a day are being convicted of drug driving offences, so it surprises me that organisations aren't doing more to ensure that the people who drive for their business are fit to do so. When you consider that roadside drug driving tests only screen for cocaine and cannabis, it begs the question of how many convictions would there be if people were tested for a wider panel?'

Clarke continues, 'It's also important for employers to look at the contributory factors associated with drink and drug abuse in the workplace and ensure they are managing them effectively. Workplace testing has been used for decades but we've also seen drug and alcohol usage dramatically increase over this time as well. Companies need to remember that while testing can be used to identify those who come to work whilst impaired, it's just as important to take a proactive approach to the

issue, educating employees and minimising the chance of them taking the risk of coming to work whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

'Our advice to clients and employees is relatively straightforward - what people get up to outside of work should not have any impact on the workplace. However, if the employee's outside work activities raise health and safety concerns, or risks when they are back on company premises, or undertaking work on behalf of the company, then the company will be left in a position whereby they need to take steps to control or reduce these risks.'

He concludes, 'There are severe penalties for employers who fail to prevent accidents caused by the actions of an employee. It's a legal requirement for companies to have a health and safety policy in place and we have seen a huge increase in the number of insurers that are making it a requirement to have a drug and alcohol policy as well. Being under the influence can impair a person's ability to carry out their duties; when they are in charge of heavy equipment e.g. a forklift, then there is a genuine risk to those around them. Our experience has found that those companies which have a well defined drug and alcohol policy in place backed up by training, education and a well defined screening process often get a better rate of insurance. By proving that they are able to reduce the risk of drug and alcohol related workplace accidents, the insurance that would cover these is also reduced thereby saving you money.'



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£12,700 reasons to underline the value of Northern Ireland's club sector



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

I was recently invited to attend the annual charity presentation day at the RAOB Grand Lodge of Ireland HQ in Belfast.

In the period since 1992, The Royal Antiluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) commonly known as 'The Buffs' have donated £351,440 to a range of local charities.

Each year a charity is chosen in turn by each of the provincial lodges. This year the chosen charity was 'Helping Hands' at the Royal Victoria Hospital for Sick Children.

'Helping Hands' Fundraising Manager, Nigel Kearley, was presented with a cheque for £12,700, by Grand Primo, William Graham, and Thomas Sinclair, No.1 Provincial Grand Primo.

Nigel explained how this wonderful donation would be utilised for purchasing much needed diagnostic equipment for the hospital in order to assist research into illnesses related to children, and also to assist the families of children affected by these same illnesses.

In speaking to the RAOB Grand Secretary, Tom McNaught, he was keen to underline that the RAOB, now celebrating its 33rd year at its Church Street HQ, is non sectarian.

In addition to housing the meeting facilities for lodges, the famous Belfast Club provides excellent entertainment facilities for



(l-r) RAOB Officers, Hugh Taggart, Tom McNaught and Robert Jamison, present Helping Hands Fundraising Manager, Nigel Kearley, with a cheque for £12,700.

members and guests in the main function room on the ground floor, which each week features live entertainment, not only on evenings, but also on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

Additionally, a sports lounge is located on the first floor

which can be easily accessed by a lift for those with mobility issues.

I congratulate the RAOB on this magnificent contribution to a most worthy charity and wish them continued success in the years to come.

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Winter Woolly Walk with the Cancer Fund for Children

This February, wrap up warm and come along to one of our wonderful Winter Woolly Walks! With seven stunning locations across Northern Ireland to choose from, there is sure to be one near you.

And by getting involved and fundraising, you will be showing your support to local children affected by cancer. So bring the kids, the grandparents and get the woolly hats on!

Sign Up Now

2018 will be the 13th year Winter Woolly Walks will be held across the province and we are so grateful to you for getting behind our walks each year, raising much needed funds and helping us to support families going through an incredibly difficult time in the wake of a cancer diagnosis.

This year is no different so dig out the woolly hat, the gloves and the walking shoes and join us this February for a fantastic day out at a Winter Woolly Walk near you...

- Tollymore Forest Park, Newcastle (17th Feb)
- St Columb's Park, Derry/Londonderry (17th Feb)
- Castle Coole, Enniskillen (17th Feb)
- Drum Manor Forest Park, Cookstown (24th Feb)
- Portstewart Strand, Portstewart (24th Feb)
- Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park, Belfast (24th Feb)
- Antrim Castle Gardens, Antrim (24th Feb)

Family-friendly Fun

Each walk ranges from 2-4 miles, taking in beautiful forests or wild and windy beaches. Walkers are free to stroll leisurely or can walk as briskly as you wish - it's all about having fun together as a family, getting out in the fresh air and enjoying the wonderful wintry scenery.

Registration is from 10am at all locations with the walks beginning at 10:30am. Refreshments for adults and children will be provided at the end of each walk as well as some fun family activities. Our early bird registration fee

costs £5 per adult and £2 per child so sign up now.

Phone: 028 9080 5599
or
Email: fundraising@cancerfundforchildren.com



February 2018

Join us for one of our family-friendly walks to support local children living with cancer.

Sign Up:

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cancer fund for children

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Season's Greetings from Counterpoint

At Christmas time, iconic drinks provide your customers with an opportunity to remember the past.

At Counterpoint we have some of Northern Ireland's favourite iconic soft drinks that are still market leaders and favourites today.

Counterpoint launched in 2013, originally known as Britvic Licensed Wholesale Ltd., has roots through our brands reaching back to Thomas Cantrell's, Ginger Ale, launched in Belfast in 1852. Today, Thomas Cantrell's Ginger Ale is called Club

Ginger Ale and is part of the newly relaunched Club Mixers Range.

Counterpoint is also the company that brings you great iconic brands such as Club Orange, C&C lemonades, Britvic Juices and Britvic 55, 7UP, Pepsi, Cidona and Ballygowan.

We are consistently innovating with no sugar options such as MiWadi NS and Fruit Shoot options for children.

Look out for our new super premium range of adult soft drinks in the new year

including Thomas & Evans, Monte Rosso, London Essence Sodas & Tonics and our French Syrup Range Teisseire.

For further information

Telephone: 0808 1011 610

or
Email: info@counterpointireland.com

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year to you all from Counterpoint.

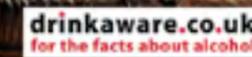


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For Information contact Counterpoint on 0808 1011 610



Bushmills Red Bush joins award-winning portfolio of whiskeys

Bushmills Irish Whiskey has announced the launch of Bushmills Red Bush, a new brand in the award-winning portfolio. The highly anticipated release is the first new expression from The Old Bushmills Distillery for the domestic market in nearly five years.

As the Irish whiskey category has escalated in popularity, consumer demand has increased for a relevant and versatile whiskey that can be enjoyed neat or with a range of mixers. Bushmills Red Bush is a subtle and balanced expression - appealing to both whiskey enthusiasts and those new to the category, drawing new consumers into the character and flavour profile unique to Bushmills Irish Whiskey.

Matured exclusively in first fill, medium char bourbon casks which soften the spirit, Bushmills Red Bush is a blend of triple distilled single malt and grain whiskey delivering a sweet and exceptionally smooth taste. The amber spirit offers intense aromas of toasted oak, with deep lingering caramel and vanilla notes.

The versatile expression delivers a great, effortless taste neat but also works perfectly as a long serve with a range of mixers like soda, cola or ginger ale.

The Bushmills Red Bush signature serve however, will be the Red & White, made using one part Bushmills Red Bush and three parts white lemonade, poured over ice and garnished with a wedge of lime.

The new release is a testament to the increasing popularity of the Irish whiskey category with global sales increasing by 54% in the past five years, according to the report issued by the Irish Spirits Association in October 2017.

Colum Egan, Master Distiller at The Old Bushmills Distillery, comments, "While we've been innovating with our aged whiskeys for centuries, we're excited to embark on a journey with the new whiskey exclusively in first fill bourbon barrels creates a mildly sweet and extremely smooth spirit that will resonate with both frequent bourbon fans and Irish whiskey drinkers."

Whiskey connoisseur and General Manager of Bachus Inns, Michael Borland, adds, "We're seeing some big changes in the trade with the growth of the Irish whiskey category, and this new innovation from Bushmills Irish Whiskey is big news for the industry."

"With the increasing popularity of the cocktail, there are so many ways to enjoy whiskey now. Bushmills Red Bush is coming at exactly the right time - the smooth blend is ideal for first time whiskey drinkers: easy to drink and easy to mix. It's great to see the brand keep ahead of the curve and respond to consumer demand. This expression will help open up the Irish whiskey category to a whole new audience."

Bushmills Red Bush has all of the character, confidence and independence of

Bushmills Irish Whiskey, which this year introduced the #AnswerTheCall campaign. Activated across PR, social media, POS and immersive consumer events, the campaign not only celebrated local talent but drove footfall to licensed premises and saw event-goers enjoy a selection of signature serves.

Red Bush is priced at £24 for 700ml, bottled at 40% ABV and is available to buy from select retailers and wholesalers. To keep up to date with Bushmills Red Bush, and other brands in the Bushmills Irish Whiskey® portfolio, follow @BushmillsUK on social media or visit www.answerthecall.co.uk



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Style is first past the post at Down Royal

The JNwine.com Ladies Day saw thousands of racing spectators turn out for the final day of the two-day Festival of Racing at Down Royal Racecourse recently.

Fashion savvy racegoers ascended on the Co. Down racecourse bringing a sea of colour and eye-catching feather headpieces as the ladies didn't hold back in their attempt to win the Victoria Square Best Dressed Lady Competition prize of 10 nights in Rio de Janeiro.

Judges Katherine Farries, personal stylist at Victoria Square and fashion blogger Diane McStay had the task of whittling down the entries with the winner being named as Catherine McKillion from

Donaghmore in Co. Tyrone. Catherine picks up a prize to Brazil's liveliest location, Rio, a city where tropical rainforests and monolithic mountains collide to form one of the most spectacular landscapes in the world.

The prize comprises return flights from Dublin, a ten-night stay in a four-star hotel close to Copacabana beach and guided tours taking in the city's most famous landmarks including Christ the Redeemer statue and Sugarloaf Mountain offering breath taking views.

Catherine, who is eight months pregnant, wore a deep navy velvet dress from Zara, paired with a bag from Alf and Roe Vintage, nude Christian



Festival of Racing's 'Best Dressed Lady' winner, Catherine McKillion pictured at Down Royal. Photo by Kelvin Boyes / Press Eye.

Louboutin heels and a bespoke hat by Lori Muldoon Millinery to complete the look.

Mike Todd, General Manager of Down Royal Racecourse said, 'Ladies Day at Down Royal is as competitive as the horse racing on the track and we are delighted to have partnered with Victoria Square for the Festival of Racing once again. Congratulations to our

deserving winner Catherine and the other finalists".

On the race track, the JNwine.com Champion Chase, created in 1999, was won by Gordon Elliott trained horse Outlander ridden by Jack Kennedy.

The next race meeting at Down Royal takes place on Boxing Day, 26th December. For more information go to www.downroyal.com



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UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winner

by Tony McGee

All codes in the GAA were fully active during October 2017 which meant there was a long list of probable candidates for the Monthly Merit Award. Both men and women's games were in full swing at club, county, provincial and All-Ireland levels, so sorting through the plethora of names thrown up took some time.

The list had to be trimmed and in the end one name shone through - that of Slaughtneil double doyen, Brendan Rogers, and for his excellence in both hurling and football during the month the 23-year-old wins the award for a second time. It seems that Brendan revels in the autumn action as it was for November last year that he first collected the honours.

"It is just a few weeks earlier this year," he said at the presentation in Quinn's Corner. "It was a tough month for the club with no let up as hurling and football was played end-to-end. However, we managed to handle the situation and winning the hurling final again was superb. Now we are into the football semi-final and, hopefully, we can go all the way again, and retain the Ulster treble.

"The hurlers have retained the title and so have the camogs so it is up to the footballers to match last year's Ulster run. There is no pressure on us, however."

Whether at full-back in football or full-forward in hurling, Brendan Rogers is comfortable, it seems. He turns in the same whole-



(l-r): Slaughtneil Chairman, Sean McGuigan; Quinn Building Products Sales & Marketing Director, Seamus McMahon; Brendan Rogers; and UGAAWA Chairman, John Martin. Pic by Jim Dunne

hearted display in both codes. "They complement each other," he explained. "The different scenery at the opposite ends of the pitch helps."

The dual star likes to get forward in football as he sets up scores for team mates but points out: "It is dangerous to roam too far up as you can't leave the back door open when playing at full-back."

Brendan Rodgers got the nod for last month's award ahead of Fermanagh footballer Shannon Hamilton, who shone in the All-Ireland Junior Championship final replay, with Louise Doogan, who was outstanding for Slaughtneil in winning the Ulster senior camogie title, Patrick McBrearty, who hit eight points in Kilcar's victory over Scotstown, and top English player Ciara Donnelly being

others who deserve special mention. The presentation was made by Quinn Building Products Sales & Marketing Director Seamus McMahon.

The winner receives an engraved Belleek Vase, training gear from O'Neill's Sportswear, silver cuff links from Carlingford Design

House and two tickets to our next annual presentation function on Friday 2nd February 2018 in Monaghan.



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October NIFWA Awards



Oran Kearney has completed the NIFWA hat-trick. The Coleraine FC manager added the October BetMcLean Manager of the Month trophy to his August and September awards, making him only the third man to win the gong three times in a row.

Irish League legend, David Jeffrey, completed the hat-trick in 2007, during his time at Linfield, while Cliftonville manager Tommy Breslin followed in Jeffrey's footsteps in 2014.

Coleraine gaffer Kearney said, "It's an honour for me to win this award for the third time in a row. David Jeffrey and Tommy Breslin are two of the best managers in the history of Irish League football, so to be mentioned in the same sentence

is superb. But this award isn't just about me. It's about the great staff I have at the club and our players, who have been superb for me this season."

In October, Coleraine claimed Danske Bank Premiership wins over Linfield, Cliftonville, Glentoran and Ballinamallard United as the Bannsidiers retained top spot in the division.

Paul McLean of sponsors BetMcLean said, "Oran is a real gentleman and fully deserves all the praise that has come his way. To win this award yet again is a tremendous achievement."

NIFWA Chair Keith Bailie said, "Coleraine have lit up the Irish League this season. Their success has added an extra



Coleraine manager Oran Kearney receives the NIFWA October BetMcLean Manager of the Month award from Paul McLean.

dimension to an already exciting of awards in the past, tells you competition. everything you need to know "The fact that David Jeffrey and about what Oran Kearney has Tommy Breslin are the only achieved this season." two men to complete a hat-trick

Cliftonville Football Club's Rory Donnelly has been named Premiership Player of the Month by NIFWA.



Rory Donnelly receives his award from Keith Bailie.

Donnelly, who collected the Belleek trophy at Windsor Park, said, "October has been a fantastic month for me as I've been playing regularly and scoring goals.

"It's a great honour to win this award, but it wouldn't have been possible without the help of my team mates and the manager (Barry Gray)."

In the month of October, Rory helped Cliftonville to wins over PSNI, Warrenpoint Town, Glentoran and Dungannon Swifts. The former Swansea City

man scored six goals, including a hat-trick against Dungannon.

NIFWA Chairman Keith Bailie said, "Rory has been in superb form in recent weeks and he is a very worthy winner of the Belleek trophy. It's great for the game to have young players of Rory's ability plying their trade in the Irish League. I've no doubt there is more to come from Rory, this season."

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Honour on (and off) the pitch



Iran and USA players arm in arm in the celebration of football.

After cutting off diplomatic relations, the idea of Iran playing against the USA seemed surreal. In fact, it was their first time ever playing each other and it was in the World Cup Finals 1998.

Fans mingled before, during and after the game as the fellowship of football prevailed. Before the game, the Iranian team gave bouquets of flowers to the American team who reciprocated with American souvenir badges.

Throughout the game, players helped each other off the ground, in fact the game was played in such a sporting manner that UEFA gave both teams its Fair Play award.

Iran won 2-1 and football had helped relations between the two countries, forging the start of a new relationship. Behind the scenes, both teams met the night before the game and agreed that this should be the start of a sporting relationship.

They met the day after the game and US Soccer then invited the Iranian team to play a three game tour of the United States. However, when the Iranians heard that upon entry all players would be finger printed and photographed, they objected. The USA State Department waived the regulation and the tour went ahead. USA and Iran drew 1-1.

Reported comments captured the continuing moment, 'Football has again helped to heal wounds between two nations, who twenty years ago, seemed set to bleed forever.'

Taylor refuses to break record

Sir Donald Bradman is considered by many to be the world's greatest cricketer. He almost scored 1,000 runs (973) during the eight innings on Australia's 1930 tour. He also once scored 334 runs in a single innings.



Australian Captain, Mark Taylor.

Although Sir Don was arguably the world's best cricketer, he was a humble man. He has been described as an example of human kindness, honesty, integrity and virtue. In some ways his 'normality' made him all the more respected. He had unwavering concentration for long periods but was extremely exciting to watch because of the speed with which he scored runs. A true gentleman, he was always immaculately behaved and steeped in humility with a strong belief in sportsmanship. He scored almost 7,000 test runs, including 29 centuries. No other cricketer has even come close to his batting average of 99.94 over 52 test matches. He was only 4 runs short of averaging 100 when he picked up his bat for the last time in England in 1948, but was tragically bowled out for a duck. He was knighted in 1949 and went on to serve Australian cricket as chairman of Australia's cricket selectors. He passed away in 2001 at the age of 92.

Some three years prior to Sir Donald's death, Mark Taylor led his Australian team to Pakistan to their first victory in that country in 39 years. In the second Test at Peshawar, Taylor batted heroically for two days. At the end of second day's play he had scored 334 runs, equalling Sir Donald Bradman's record. Everyone, including his team-mates, the media, and the fans, wanted him to break the record and go on to break Brian Lara's new record of 375 runs. A massive crowd arrived the next day to see play resume. Taylor was having none of it however, and declared the innings closed. He opted to share the record with Sir Donald and simultaneously, improve the team's chances of winning the test. He was later widely praised for this decision. The Test ended in a draw. The third and final test also ended in a draw giving Australia the series.

It happened in 1996...

Horse Racing - *Earth Summit* jumped his way into the history books, when, having shared the lead with *Sunny Bay* for the last third of the National, he pulled clear to win by eleven lengths.

Snooker - *Defending champion, Ken Doherty, lost the 1998 World Championship Final to Mark Higgins 18-12.*

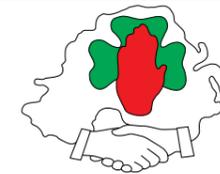
The Federation Invite New Members to Join

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