THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

Review Club

VOLUME 31 - Issue 1, 2018

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Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Hosted by Diageo, Belfast Headquarters, on Wednesday 6th December 2017

Northern Ireland Commercial Director, lorge Lopez, together with Paddy McKenna and Colin Bell, welcomed us upon arrival and shared some time to reflect on the long association between the registered club sector and Diageo.

The Executive Committee meeting commenced with an interesting discussion on a number of issues pursued during the year.

Of course, as one would expect, we remain frustrated that the amendments to the 1996 Clubs Order and Accounts Regulations, despite being agreed, remain in limbo due to the present suspension of the Legislative Assembly. However, we are informed by the Civil Servants that the detail of the amendments will be provided to the new committee when things are re-established.

Rating was also briefly discussed, as was the positive outcome of discussions with Sky TV, which, as members will be aware, were ongoing for some time. Nevertheless, the new tariff now in place is a big help to clubs with sport and leisure rating relief. It would also be helpful if we could secure some relief for other clubs, based on, for example, turnover or some other vehicle, which could be authenticated.



at their Belfast HQ.

The date for the Federation Annual General Meeting was agreed to be Saturday 10th March 2018 at 10.00am -12.00 noon. Thanks has been extended to the RAOB HO Club, Belfast, for again hosting the event.

The Chairman extended thanks to Diageo for hosting today's meeting and for the Christmas lunch which followed.

This brought a most productive year to a close.

Harry Beckinsale Secretary Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs





i heart especially ones WINES this good!

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Federation Executive Committee Members, pictured with Jorge Lopes, Paddy McKenna and Colin Bell of Diageo,



Club News

Alternative dispute resolution Labour Relations in employment cases

Last month we included a short article from the Labour Relations Agency on their Employment Relations Advice and Assistance service.

This month we focus on the Alternative Dispute Resolution service provided by the Agency.

As disputes do arise, the Agency offers a range of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

These are: Conciliation - Individual and Collective

Arbitration - Statutory Scheme and Independent Appeals

Mediation

By far the biggest section within the dispute resolution services is individual conciliation. Almost all Industrial and Fair Employment Tribunal claims are referred to the Agency who has a statutory duty to attempt to resolve cases without the need for a tribunal hearing.

Assistance can also be given in promoting settlement of potential tribunal complaints and these are known as Preclaim conciliated settlements. Callers to our Enquiry Point are offered this service (*subject to certain qualifying conditions*) and to date many have succeeded in resolving their disputes without recourse to the Tribunal.

One of the highest profile services is collective conciliation. Agency officers can be called upon to act as conciliators, when invited, by employers or workers involved in an industrial dispute. This service is also used to assist parties to agree on processes relating to Statutory Trade Union Recognition and Information and Consultation.

If parties to an industrial dispute agree, the Agency can refer the matter to arbitration. An individual, or a panel, to act as an independent arbitrator(s) are appointed and decide how the dispute is to be settled. The parties agree joint terms of reference in advance and the arbitrator (acting alone or chairing a panel) considers the written and oral submissions of the parties, makes a decision and, where appropriate, an award, which the parties agree to accept and implement. Arbitration also features as an independent appeal mechanism in many large public sector employment procedures.

The Agency's Statutory Arbitration Scheme is an alternative to having a case heard by the Tribunal. Parties to a case that agree to use the arbitration scheme



waive their rights to take their case to tribunal. The scheme is intended to be faster and cheaper than the tribunal system and is non-legalistic. There is no cross-examination of parties to the dispute or of witnesses.

During mediation, Agency Officers acting as mediators, work with those involved in a dispute to explore the underlying issues and through a constructive approach help the parties listen to one another.

The ultimate goal of mediation is to focus on the future by acknowledging areas of commonality and difference in an attempt to build bridges and restore effective working relationships. Any agreements reached are the responsibility of the parties and the Agency does not impose solutions or make judgments on the rights or wrongs of the issues in dispute.

Why use us?

We have been successful year-on-year in settling a large number of tribunal complaints.

As we are impartial, we are often viewed as the 'honest broker' and this can be a distinct advantage where one side has legal representation and the other is unrepresented. The service is confidential, and as such, the parties are free to discuss their relative positions without fear that these will come back to haunt them. The service is free and this has to be an advantage at a time when costs associated with tribunal complaints are high.

Perhaps most importantly, any agreement reached under the auspices of the Agency's individual conciliation service is legally binding. That said, they are not subject to the same rules governing compromise agreements and as such can produce more comprehensive settlements.

Where settlement is not possible, parties to a dispute may wish to consider agreeing to have the case heard at arbitration.

For further information or assistance, feel free to contact the LRA at either of the offices listed below. This is a free service and the offices are manned by friendly staff who are ready to help you with whatever query you have.

Contact details: Labour Relations Agency Head Office:

2-16 Gordon Street, Belfast BT1 2LG T: 028 9032 1442 E: info@lra.org.uk

Regional Office:

1-3 Guildhall Street, L'derry BT48 6BJ T: 028 7126 9639 E: info@lra.org.uk

N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

O7889 800329 07889 681714 07889 800325



E-mail: info@nifederationofclubs.com

N.I. Federation of Clubs AGM

Clubs are reminded that the Federation Annual General Meeting is being held in the RAOB HQ, 17 Church Street, Belfast, on Saturday 10th March, 10am - noon.

As you can imagine, the present political situation continues to cause some problems, nevertheless, your Federation continues to work tirelessly to represent you in the most effective way possible, which includes engagement with the All Parliamentary Group at Westminster.

The following are just some of the issues on the agenda

in which we continue to be engaged, so be assured, your attendance at the AGM plays a very important role.

a) Impending change to the 1996 Clubs Order and Accounts Regulations

b) Anticipated change to entertainment licensing

c) Rating of club premises & the impact on Sky TV tariffs

d) PPL & PRS merger

All clubs are encouraged to make a special effort to attend this very important event in the club calendar.

Hospitality will be provided following the AGM.

Club audits

Clubs registered under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act, the Friendly Societies Acts or the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act must submit an Annual Return to the Financial Conduct Authority no later than the date required under the terms of the Club's particular Rules.

Failure to comply may result in prosecution. Such Clubs must also ensure the annual fee is paid, the amount of which depends upon the Club's assets.



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Club News

A new chapter of a 'Classic tale'

Classic Interiors, under the guidance of Ken Nelson, has established a long association with the leisure sector, and in particular, with registered clubs throughout Northern Ireland.

Of course, Ken is well known to the Federation and clubs in general, for his handson approach, in addressing difficulties and fine-tuning, to meet customer requirements. When major work is being carried out, it is inevitable that problems will arise from time to time, and it is for this reason Ken was keen to emphasise the importance of personal service.

However, father time marches on, and it was after some thought, that Ken decided it was time to consider retirement, or as some say, take time to 'smell the roses'. Easy to say, but not always easy to do.

Nevertheless, Ken did take that big decision, as a result of which he is very reassured and content that the business will continue under the very capable hands of Clifford Owens, who is thrilled at the opportunity to continue what Ken has achieved.

Having received an invitation to Whitehouse Working Men's Club, Clifford informed me of the purpose built workshop now in place, together with the introduction of state-of-the-art 3D technology, as part of their service to clients.

The enthusiasm and attention to detail expressed by Clifford



Clifford Owens, Classic, and Ernie Larkin, Whitehouse WMC Building Committee, join Federation Chairman, John Davidson, in congratulating Ken Nelson, upon announcing his retirement.

and his team was evident, and very reassuring as to the company's wish to continue and develop its association with the registered club sector. We take this opportunity to wish them well for the future. We also wish Ken Nelson the very best of everything in his retirement.









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Insurance - good practice information

Protect Your Business

The physical, emotional and financial impact of suffering a burglary can take a business a long time to recover from.

Having an adequate alarm system installed and adhering to basic security advice can effectively deter any wannabe thieves or petty criminals intent on harm.

Alarm systems offer two forms of protection; deterrence and detection. In the event of an intrusion, most basic alarm systems will trigger an audible or visual alarm. For better protection, many insurers insist upon a monitored alarm system; not only will this system react with a physical alarm, but it will also notify

emergency responders of the situation

Where to Start?

A quick search on the internet will return thousands of alarm companies, which can be overwhelming and discouraging.

The following six steps should help to ease your search:

- 1. Establish what type of alarm your Insurance Company requires.
- 2. Seek advice:- ideally through a personal referral or local law enforcement.
- 3. Find a company with certified employees:- various training courses are available throughout the UK designed to educate people



in fitting and maintaining alarm systems; at the very least they should be a qualified electrician.

- 4. Evaluate work history:one of the best ways to determine if an alarm company is credible is through consumer claims and work history.
- 5. Organise meetings with potential companies:- your consultation should consist of a building inspection and security recommendations for your property.
- 6. Learn how to use your system properly - ensure all necessary staff are trained in setting the alarm; regular tests should be carried out. NB; IF AN ALARM SYSTEM IS FITTED, THEN IT MUST BE SET WHENEVER THE PROPERTY IS VACANT. IF THERE IS ANY FAULT OR PROBLEM IDENTIFIED ON THE ALARM THEN THE PREMISES MUST NOT BE LEFT UNOCCUPIED UNTIL THE ISSUE HAS BEEN RESOLVED. IF THIS IS NOT ADHERED TO THEN YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF NOT INSURED IN THE CASE OF A BREAK-IN.

We have heard of clubs who have been affected by thieves entering the premises during normal trading hours and tampering with the magnetic alarm contacts. This means that when staff try to set the alarm when closing up for the night the alarm does not arm properly. This error might be identified from a message on the alarm panel or perhaps a different tone on the alarm. It is vital that your staff

recognise whether the alarm is set properly or not.

General security advice Money

- Minimise the amount of cash you keep on the premises
- Leave the till open and empty after cashing up
- Make frequent pick-ups of money from tills and make regular bank deposits - employees in charge of making bank deposits should always be alert for strangers lingering at the bank. If in doubt, do not make the deposit while a suspicious person is in the area.
- Always ensure that any money in transit to the bank or elsewhere is accompanied by the relevant number of able bodied persons as required by your Insurance Policy.
- Install a good quality safe - be sure it is fireproof and securely anchored. It should be kept in plain view; and the combination should be changed when an employee who had access leaves your business. THE KEYS TO THE SAFE MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES OUT OF BUSINESS HOURS OR PLACED WITHIN A LOCKED SAFE OR STRONGROOM, THE KEYS TO WHICH, ARE THEMSELVES REMOVED FROM THE BUSINESS PREMISES.

Internal/External

• Upgrade the security on your doors - deadbolt locks are an inexpensive way to keep intruders out of your

workplace and many insurers require this as standard on all external doors and shutters.

- A more advanced way to secure your business is through an electronic access control system - this system will provide a record of who opened or attempted to open every door.
- · Padlocks, if used, should be close-shackle with matching locking bars. Remember to remove serial numbers from your lock to prevent unauthorised keys from being made.
- Windows should have secure locks and ideally burglarresistant glass - if absolutely necessary, consider installing metal grates.
- · Always use interior and exterior lighting - installing and using motion sensor lighting is an inexpensive way to deter crime at your business.
- Utilise CCTV criminal activity can be deterred by placing video surveillance cameras in plain view. Remember, you can only place video surveillance cameras in public areas.
- Adapt a key control policy - your business may be vulnerable to theft if you are unsure who has access to your building. Make sure the keys to your venue cannot

be duplicated without your permission. Document the names of employees who have company keys or access cards.

- Create a visitor access policy - it is important to know who is coming into your business. If possible, have each visitor sign in and acquire a visitor's badge.
- Keep expensive/attractive items away from entrances.
- Ensure that alarm codes are reviewed regularly and particularly when a member of your staff leaves your employ. Many alarms can be set to give each individual a different access code. This makes it very clear who has operated the alarm at any given time.

General

- · Be aware of suspicious strangers loitering in or near your place of business. Take particular notice of people who loiter during the opening and closing times of your business.
- Try not to work alone. Studies indicate that the presence of several employees deter criminal activity.

If you are in any doubt about aspects of your club insurance cover, you are recommended to contact your insurance broker/ company in the first instance.

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SALES & LETTINGS

GROUND RENTS



Reminders...

Club Secretaries will have in their minds, and hopefully in their diaries, the dates by which certain returns and applications have to be made. We hope the following checklist will assist Clubs in carrying out this useful exercise.

Renewal of Registration

Clubs are reminded that their 5 year registration is due for renewal in March 2018. Your club solicitor should prepare for the said renewal in time to meet the deadline.

Performing Rights Society & Phonographic Performances Ltd

The PRS and PPL Licenses need to be renewed each year. These Licenses cover different types of copyright payable for playing any type of music within the Club. There are two types of license required to be paid to the PPL depending on whether the Club plays background music or uses recorded music

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

at a dance or discotheque or similar function. In the case of the latter, the fee is on a sliding scale basis. In January, fees are payable to the PRS. These payments are fixed under an Agreement with the PRS and the appropriate fee for a Club is calculated according to the type of music used. There is often confusion between the licenses of the PPL and PRS but, as a general rule, if a Club has music it must have both of these respective licenses.

Auto Enrolment Pension -April 2018 Changes

Although mentioned in the last edition of Club Review, we felt it important to republish the information below with regards Auto Enrolment.

In addition to the aforementioned, please make a note of the date for VAT returns, insurance renewals and the Club's TV licence.

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% |



Questions & Answers

Q. Each year our club holds one or two events, the admissions to which have, in recent years, been by 'ticket only.' We have some members who question this and say that they must be allowed to enter the club, even if they do not wish to buy a ticket. We would appreciate your clarification of this matter.



A. The Committee are able prevent Members from coming into the Club. An easy example of this is when the Club is closed (which is an event which occurs every single day) or often when you allow a private event to take place where Members cannot use the Club, or function room, during that event. The Committee, literally, prevent Members from coming into the Club every single day on account of it being closed.

The Rules provide that the Committee determine the opening and closing hours of the Club. On New Year's Eve you are essentially closing the Club to anyone who has not purchased a ticket in advance. I would suggest that you inform

Members that the Committee have made this decision and

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that any Member without a ticket purchased will not be able to enter the Club on New Years' Eve. If any Members further complain I would suggest that they stand for election to the Committee next year so they can play a role in the management of the Club.

Q. An employee has recently left the employment of the Club and we believe that they will claim that they have been unfairly dismissed. Do you have any advice as to how we should proceed? Some Committee Members think we should make the ex-employee a financial settlement offer in order to avoid a tribunal

A. Have you received any formal documentation yet notifying you of the claim? This documentation will be important to enable the Committee establish exactly why the employee is claiming that they have been unfairly dismissed. Whilst I understand that a Committee may hear of a claim before it is actually legally informed of the claim you will still likely have to wait for the claim to be issued before you can properly review it and make further decisions. Have you already contacted your insurers? It may be that you have legal cover included in your policy and they will defend the case for the Club. It would be sensible to inform your insurers now of the potential situation and then, if you do have legal coverage with

your policy, to forward them the formal documentation as soon as it is received.

To a certain extent, whether to offer a financial settlement in the event of a claim can be made on a pragmatic basis. If it appears that a claim is likely to go all the way to a tribunal (and some claims may be abandoned half way through the procedure for various reasons) then you can calculate the cost to the Club of defending the claim and also the Committee time and energy that it will take up. A potential financial settlement discussion could begin with that figure, or a figure close to. It may not feel correct from a moral point of view but it can be sensible from a financial and legal point of view.

If a settlement can be achieved at a lower cost than defending the claim, and possibly losing, then such a settlement offer should at least be duly considered.

In any event, you will likely need to wait until you can review the exact claim that the employee is making. This will assist in deciding how strong the Clubs' defence is likely to be and will also affect what, if any, settlement offer is made to the ex-employee. If you can use your insurance policy to defend the claim then they will also assist you with these types of decisions.



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Charities and good causes continue to benefit from generous club sector



Belfast 89FM.

Good causes, and the Charity sector in Northern Ireland has enjoyed a long association with registered sports, social and recreational clubs.

The association, which sees clubs the length and breadth of the province raise funds for various charities, has resulted in numerous awards to the Federation by the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), so much so, that the Federation requested that the gratitude be expressed to the clubs themselves, whose members are the true fundraisers.

The history of support by clubs, such as, the Dockers Club in Pilot Street, Belfast, RAOB clubs throughout the province, and monthly and annual charitable support by Harland & Wolff Welders in Dee Street, Belfast, is but a brief overview of the kind of outstanding support provided.

There is a perception that government funding underpins various charities, but nothing could be further

from the truth. Indeed, special needs schools are required to underpin much of their own expense.

I recall funding for the sports ground at Fleming Fulton School in South Belfast, being aided by major funding by the registered club sector, with a second project, which created a family room, being funded by the Showbiz Charity Club of Belfast, which of course has hosted cabaret fundraising events in respective registered clubs over many years.

It is true that, per capita, the Northern Ireland people are viewed as being amongst the most charitable people in the UK when it comes to charitable giving.

Another outstanding example of the aforesaid support is the annual cheque presentation at Harland & Wolff Welders Social Club, in Dee Street, Belfast, which results from an annual cabaret show during the Christmas period, which sees entertainers donate their services to entertain members and guests. Organising such as event is no small task, and it is to the credit of the club management committee, staff and members, that this event continues year on year. Moreover, with the assistance of entertainment stalwarts, Tony Jones and Sylvia Pavis, the club continues to present donations throughout the year.

At a recent awards evening in the club, Mitchell House, Harberton, Victoria Primary, Fleming Fulton, and Tor Bank schools, in addition to



the Island Day Centre, Dee Street Community/Toddlers, Dundela Infants and Queens University Alzheimer's Research, each received £500.

Speaking to Fred Magee of the Welders, I was made aware that this event, which commences in the form of an Old Crocks Football game, is now in its thirty-first year, with the first couple of years being held together with East Belfast Constitutional Club, following which Dundela stepped in to replace the Constitutional Club, in an arrangement which continues to this day.

Hopefully this will provide a small insight to the contribution made by the registered club sector to communities throughout the province, especially in view of, and in spite of, the difficult economic climate which continues for many.

I could provide an almost endless list of clubs, all of which support the charity sector, and who are equally worthy of praise, but I would risk leaving someone out.

However, as many will know, I have interviewed various club representatives on Belfast 89fm, who were very humble, in not wishing to take credit themselves, but appreciated the support of their members.

The valuable support provided by the club sector in respect to charitable support is endorsed by NICVA.

It is important to also acknowledge the substantial support of sport and leisure activity, provided by the registered clubs sector.

The late Professor Eric Sander, in his capacity as Chief Executive of Sport NI, underlined, via Sport NI's own sources, that the club sector supported sport in Northern Ireland through underpinning of £26m per annum - no mean figure by any means. Although these statistics are from a survey taken some years ago, the figures remain substantial.

It is reasonable to accept that the absence of attendances experienced on the mainland, due to a substantially smaller population, presents many financial difficulties, making the financial support provided by a sports club's associated social dimension ever more essential.

How else could grounds and sports facilities be maintained.

Of course, it is important to be mindful of the enormous contribution made by the club volunteer in this respect also.

It is my hope that this editorial provides you with an insight into the value registered sports and social clubs make to society in Northern Ireland.

Members can feel rightly proud of the contribution made to communities, who would be greatly disadvantaged were it not for this long established sector.

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Corporate News

2018 heralds portfolio expansion for United Wine Merchants

United Wine Merchants has announced the addition of Amstel and Kronenbourg 1664 to their impressive portfolio of beers and ciders.

In 2017 Martin McAuley, Managing Director of United Wine Merchants, announced that Heineken Northern Ireland was being integrated into the United Wine Merchants' business, heralding a new era for the Heineken portfolio in Northern Ireland.

Martin and the United Wine Merchants' team of 49, including a dedicated Marketing and Sales team, will manage all brands in the portfolio, including

Desperados, Tiger, Sol and the already hugely successful apple cider brand, Orchard Thieves.

This will see the launch of numerous new Heineken beer brands, including Amstel and Kronenbourg 1664 and several new pack formats, including Desperados 250ml can and new Birra Moretti and Tiger take home packs.

Commenting on the launch, Martin said, "We are incredibly proud to be introducing Amstel and Kronenbourg 1664 into our portfolio in the Northern Ireland market. Both brands have a strong UK and International presence and we are confident with the support



we will be putting behind them in both the on and off trade, they will perform very well for us."

Amstel, which NI consumers may have already sampled in draught at the Belfast International Airport, is an almost 150 year old 4.1% ABV bier that has the perfect balance of taste and refreshment. With a unique honey malt aroma, Amstel delivers a subtle citrus and herbal hop character with a clean bitter finish. The beverage will be launched in both draught and packaged formats across the On and Off Trade.

In 2015 Amstel became a sponsor of the UEFA football Europa League and United Wine Merchants will be activating this sponsorship in outlets to drive awareness and rate of sale. This partnership along with Heineken's existing 10-year sponsorship of UEFA cements Heineken and Amstel as the beers of choice for midweek football fans.

Kronenbourg 1664's is a beer of exceptional quality where premium Strisselspalt hops, unique to Alsace, have been exclusively used since 1885. Known as the 'caviar of hops' by master brewers, Strisselspalt give Kronenbourg 1664 a low bitterness and aromatic quality. Beer connoisseurs will notice a persistent fruity aroma, with notes of citrus peel and spices, and a medium and sustained intensity.

United Wine Merchants will be leveraging the position as a premium beer with a unique flavour and will be launching the 'A Taste Supreme' campaign throughout the On and Off Trade.

2018 represents UWM's dedication to growing the beer category in Northern Ireland and they are already planning for additional exciting product launches throughout the year.

For more information please contact your UWM's Sales Representative or call 028 3831 6555.

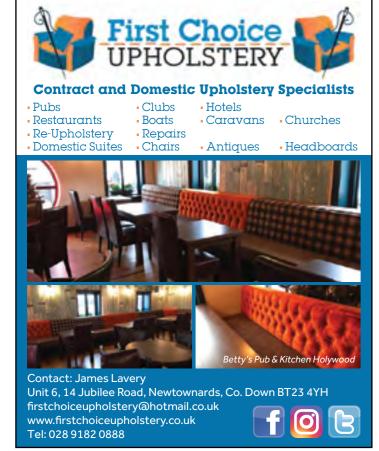
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Corporate News

Club - Lifting Irish spirits since 1852

To celebrate the 165th year anniversary of Club Mixers, Club has unveiled a complete relaunch of its iconic range, which has been lifting Irish spirits and has been at the heart of Irish pub culture since 1852. As part of the relaunch, Club Mixers has introduced an award-winning new tonic recipe, iconic new non-returnable glass bottles available in 125ml and 200ml formats as well as 850ml PET, along with a new contemporary brand identity that will be supported throughthe-line (TTL).

Reconnecting with consumers Club Mixers will be supported with a significant marketing campaign which will include experiential and sampling

marketing, consumer PR, trade press, point of purchase comms and digital support. Across the summer, Club Mixers will be showcasing its award-wining recipe and bottle to consumers at several events. This move is the first in a series of investments in the pipeline as Club Mixers looks to reconnect with the consumer through the brands unique heritage, new look, improved liquids and support plan.

Exceptional taste experience In March 2017, the new and improved Club Tonic recipe was awarded the esteemed "Three Golden Star Superior Taste Award", as part of the International Taste and Quality Institute's

"Superior Taste Awards". The International Taste & Quality Institute (iTQi) is the world's leading organisation dedicated to testing and promoting superior food and drink products. Club Mixers was awarded an accolade of superior and exceptional taste as part of a blind taste test, adjudicated by a panel of 135 expert and unanimously recognised chefs and sommeliers.

Brian Greer, Brand Manager, Britvic Ireland, commented, "We are very excited about the Club Mixers' brand relaunch as it was very important for us to keep such an iconic Irish brand contemporary and relevant to the modern consumer. Our focus has

always been to deliver a unique and superior taste experience, which is why being internationally recognised as delivering an exception taste was such a proud moment for the brand and reaffirms the strength of our offering in such a competitive space."

The Club Mixers portfolio offers a wide range of flavours, best enjoyed chilled over ice with a garnish of choice. Club Mixers are the perfect accompaniment to spirits, expertly designed to blend deliciously with gins, vodkas and whiskeys.

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Corporate News

Celebrating four decades of tourism industry excellence

Tourism NI recently launched this year's Northern Ireland Tourism Awards alongside event sponsor Diageo at the Europa Hotel, the venue for the first awards ceremony forty years ago and again in 2018.

Tourism businesses across Northern Ireland are being encouraged to enter the Northern Ireland Tourism Awards as Tourism NI searches for best practice, excellence and innovation to recognise and reward.

Since the first award ceremony in 1978, over four hundred local businesses have been recognised for their contribution to the local tourism industry.

The awards recognise and reward excellence, best practice and innovation by tourism and hospitality businesses from across Northern Ireland over the past twelve months and will take place on Thursday 24th May.

Eleven awards are up for grabs, including NI Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year, Northern Ireland's Best Hotel Stay and Most Impactful Digital Innovation awards alongside a streamlined online entry and judging process.

John McGrillen, Tourism NI Chief Executive urged local business to enter the awards, "The Northern Ireland Tourism Awards are about recognising those businesses and individuals who have delivered world class visitor experiences over the past year and have contributed to the £2.3 million



(l-r) John McGrillen, Tourism NI Chief Executive, and Jorge Lopes, Country Director Diageo NI, launch the 40th Northern Ireland Tourism Awards. The awards will take place on Thursday 24th May at the Europa Hotel, the venue of the first Northern Ireland Tourism Awards in 1978.

spent every day by visitors to Northern Ireland".

"2018 marks forty years of the awards and a very special milestone for the industry, a rare opportunity we can use to reflect on just how far tourism has progressed over the last four decades. Forty years ago only twelve travel agents in Europe sold holidays to Northern Ireland compared to the thousands of tour operators programming Northern Ireland as a must experience destination today."

"We are also delighted to be back at the Europa for the fortieth anniversary of the awards, a hotel that is part of the tourism and hospitality DNA of Northern Ireland. Our new categories for 2018 are reflective of our change in approach in relation to the growth of tourism and our continued focus on innovation and collaboration to succeed."

Jorge Lopes, DIAGEO Country Director commented, "We are extremely proud to once again sponsor the Northern Ireland Tourism Awards, especially in its 40th year. Our brands, including Guinness, Harp and Smithwick's, have been enjoyed by visitors and locals alike over the last 40 years. Throughout this time, Diageo has remained committed and passionate in our support of the tourism and hospitality sector. This remains the case both today and in the future. The industry in 2018 is almost unrecognisable from 1978 so the Awards are an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the many businesses, organisations and

initiatives that have made Northern Ireland the 'must visit' destination that it is today. We wish all entrants the very best of luck."

Tourism NI is calling on the public to submit archive images and video they may have of tourist attractions, holiday highlights and special visitor experiences of 1978 to be shown at the event ceremony. Images and video should be sent via Twitter to @NITouristBoard or emailed to tourismni@ morrowcommunications.com

The deadline for submitting entries is 5pm Monday 12th February 2018.

For full details on categories and how to enter please visit www. nitourismawards.com

MediCare focus on World Cancer Day with Cancer Focus NI

Leading local pharmacy group MediCare helped mark World Cancer Day on 4th February alongside charity partner Cancer Focus Northern Ireland.

MediCare Pharmacy Group Professional Services Manager Colin Deehan said, "We invited our customers to come along on World Cancer Day and to find out more about what they could do to reduce the risk of cancer for themselves, their families and their friends.

"We also had information on a range of support services available from our pharmacies from stop smoking and taking care in the sun to healthy eating, keeping fit and the signs and symptoms of cancer.

"We're pleased to be working in partnership with Cancer Focus NI to help raise awareness of these key health messages within our local communities."

Rosie Forsythe, Corporate Fundraising Manager at Cancer Focus NI, said, "We are delighted that MediCare hosted these information stands in their stores. We are always keen to reach out into communities to spread the word about how you can improve your health and organise these information days regularly throughout the year.

"It's expected that the number of cancer cases will rise by 65% by 2035, which is a significant increase. The figures underline the importance of working to try and lower everyone's risk of cancer, to ensure early diagnosis and to have better, more timely treatment for local patients.

"MediCare stores are located in the heart of our communities and have a key role to play in reaching local people with information that could make a real difference to their lives."

Cancer Focus NI is a local cancer charity that provides a wide range of services for Northern Ireland cancer patients and their families including counselling, family support, art therapy, creative writing therapy, and Zest for Life.

The charity also funds major breast cancer research at Queen's University Belfast and carries out cancer prevention programmes in workplaces, schools, sports clubs and community venues.

If you have any concerns about cancer call the charity's free NurseLine on 0800 783 3339.

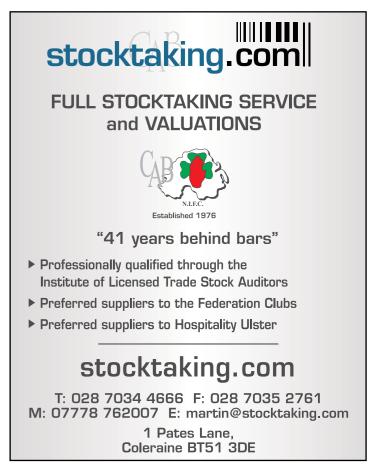
To find out more about the Cancer Focus NI, please call Rosie Forsythe on 028 9068 0759, or email rosieforsythe@cancerfocusni. org or visit www.cancerfocusni.org



Charity Update



Stephanie Gibson, pharmacy assistant at MediCare Pharmacy Group, and James Creighton, Cancer Focus NI, get an information stand ready to help highlight World Cancer Day.



Charity Update

Glentoran FC team up with local blood cancer research leaders - Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI

For the 2017/18 season, Glentoran Football Club named Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI, as their official charity for the 2017/2018 season.

Three people in Northern Ireland are diagnosed with blood cancer every day, making it the United Kingdom's fifth most common cancer by diagnosis and the third biggest killer. This frightening statistic is a stark reminder, that although research has come a long way, the outlook for many blood cancer patients remains poor.

Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI is the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to funding research into the causes and cures of blood cancers. Established as the Northern Ireland Leukaemia Research Fund by the McDowell family in 1964, following the death of their daughter, the charity has since invested over £12.5 million pounds to life-saving research.

Based at the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology (CCRCB) at Queens University Belfast, the charity funds research into the causes and cures of leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma in Northern Ireland by supporting laboratory research, clinical trials and education. All money raised by the charity in Northern Ireland is spent in Northern Ireland and 85% of all money raised goes into research.

The charity is a cause close to the heart to members of the

Glentoran family, with several supporters having been affected by blood cancer in recent years, particularly young supporter, Francesca Campbell who is currently recovering from a battle with Lymphoma.

As part of their awareness campaign in 2017, the charity recently shared the story of Roy Magee. Roy was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in 2003 and sadly passed away two years later. Roy was a proud husband and father but his big passion in life was football. He lived and breathed the game, and through dedicating a huge amount of his time to Glentoran as a Youth Coach, he left behind a lasting legacy with many of the young men he trained. It was a lovely touch that Roy's widow, Adrienne, and his daughter Nadia, were able to attend the Oval for the announcement of this partnership.

Joanne Badger from Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI said, "We rely solely on public donations, so partnerships like this are absolutely crucial in helping us to raise awareness and continue this life-saving research right here in Northern Ireland. We are delighted to have joined in partnership with such a strong, community orientated, iconic institution such as Glentoran and we know this will help raise awareness of our work throughout both East Belfast and through Northern Ireland as a whole."

The charity website is www.leukaemiaandlymphomani. org while the charity can be contacted at info@ leukaemiaandlymphomani.org



(l-r) Bill Manson (Community Liaison Director), Adrienne Wylie, Stephen Henderson (Chairman), Nadia McMullan, Curtis Allen, Joanne Badger (Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI Co-Ordinator), Richard Buchanan (Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI Chairman), John McGuigan, Gary Haveron and John Moore (Director).



Glentoran players warming up in their Leukaemia & Lymphoma t-shirts.



UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winners

by Tony McGee

Harry Loughran couldn't stand by and see his Moy team-mates, Sean and Colm Cavanagh, walk away with UGAAWA awards without getting in on the act himself, so he upped his efforts in January and won the Quinn Building Products Merit Award for the Month.

It has been a rapid rise to prominence for the 22-yearold Blackwatertown Primary School teacher, as he also collected the monthly honour for November, after helping The Moy to win the Ulster Intermediate Club Championship.

Loughran followed all that with further success by starring in the All-Ireland semi-final, hitting an injury time goal to defeat Kerry champions An Gaeltacht. It was his performances during that wonderful win that earned him his second Monthly Merit Award in three months. The Moy, of course, went on to collect the All-Ireland title in February with Loughran playing his part in the win, again.

Harry's big new year wish was to get a place in the Tyrone senior team and, after those displays, that wish must soon come true.

He has had a few cameo appearances in the Red Hand side already but he has now set out his stall for more permanency.



Harry Loughran (right) receives the Qu John Martin. Picture by Peadar McMahon

Enniskillen Gaels Ulster minor title winning captain, Eoin Beacom was named the Quinn Products Ulster GAA Writers Monthly Merit Award winner for December.

After much consideration, the writers' vote went to Beacom for his leadership from midfield as captain, his general play and his high fielding.

"Winning the Merit Award was a lovely surprise. There were others in the team who would have deserved it as much as me," said the South West College Sports Science student. "Many of us were playing in the Ulster tournament for the third year in a row and that experience stood to us. We had the confidence to deal with situations as they arose."

He received his award at a reception in Quinn's Corner, Donaghmore.

Sports Report

Harry Loughran (right) receives the Quinn Building Products, January Merit Award from UGAAWA Chairman,



Eoin Beacom (centre) receives the December

Merit Award from Quinn Building Products Sales & Marketing Director, Seamus McMahon (left), and UGAAWA Chairman, John Martin. Picture by Jim Dunne

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January NIFWA Awards

wins over Ballinamallard

Rangers. They drew with

of the BetMcLean League

Sponsors are vital to Irish

NIFWA Chairman Keith Bailie

said, "It's remarkable that both

three times in a row this season.

Oran Kearney and Stephen

Baxter have won this award,

League clubs."

Dungannon Swifts.



Crusaders manager, Stephen Baxter, has been named Betmclean Manager of the Month for January. It's the third time in a row that Baxter has won the prestigious NIFWA award, placing it alongside his November and December trophies.

The Crusaders boss said, "Winning this award means so much to me because, although it's an individual award, it reflects the fact that the team has been doing well.

"For me to win this award three months in a row, shows that the team have been exceptional this season. It's the players that really deserve all the credit because they are the ones that go onto the pitch every week and do the business."



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Crusaders Manager, Stephen Baxter, receives his third Manager of the Month Award in succession from Paul McLean.

"The battle between Crusaders and Coleraine for the Gibson Cup will be fascinating."

BetMcLean said, "Crusaders

have been superb this season, so it's no surprise that Stephen has won this award three times in a row. He ranks alongside the most successful managers in the history of our league."

Paul McLean of sponsors

Coleraine defender, Gareth McConaghie, has won the BetMcLean Player of the Month award for January. The powerful centre-back helped the Bannsiders to complete the month unbeaten, despite difficult games against Crusaders, Glentoran and Linfield. He also found the net in Coleraine's 7-0 Irish Cup win over Lisburn Distillery.

McConaghie said, "I'm delighted to win this award, it was certainly not something I was expecting. January was a good month for us because we had a number of tough games but we managed to come through it unbeaten."

Paul McLean of sponsor BetMcLean said, "Coleraine have been the story of the season so far and Gareth has



Paul McLean of BetMcLean with Coleraine defender Gareth McConaghie.

been a big part of that success. This a thoroughly well-deserved award."

NIFWA Chairman Keith Bailie said, "Gareth is now one of the most imposing defenders in the Irish League. While some of Coleraine's better-known players take the plaudits, McConaghie goes about his business with minimal fuss."







2007

The night the beautiful game returned



Leicester City manager, and true sportsman, Gary Megson.

For Leicester City Football Club and Nottingham Forest Football Club, the Carling Cup represents a realistic target for winning a trophy. Many of the premier league sides do not play their strongest teams in this competition as they consider the premiere league and the FA Cup to be more attractive targets. Smaller, lower league clubs always feel they are in with a chance of actually winning this trophy and are therefore desperate to win. Both sides felt they were in with a chance of ultimately winning the Trophy. On top of this, these clubs are keen neighbouring rivals. BBC's Paul Grant described it as playing 'in the pressure-cooker of an East Midlands derby.'

Notts Forest were winning 1-0 when one of their young and talented players, Clive Clarke, collapsed with what turned out to be a heart attack. The match was immediately abandoned. The player survived. A replay date was set.

Leicester City felt that it was unfair for Notts Forest to lose the goal they had legitimately scored. However, the rules of the competition state that a rematch is a rematch and therefore has to start 0.0. Leicester City represented all that is right with this beautiful game, so they allowed Notts Forest goalkeeper, Paul Smith, to walk the ball into the net unopposed to give Forest the lead. Leicester equalized. Notts Forest scored again to go 2-1 up. Then with two minutes to go, Leicester made it 2-2. Finally, with just seconds remaining, Leicester scored the winner and progressed on to the third round.

Paul Grant's headline, 'The night the beautiful game returned' seemed to capture the moment. He went on to say that, "football, and its administrators, coaches and players, can still be galvanised in the face of adversity and follow the path of decency with



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comprehensive unity. That both clubs were, at different times, willing to jeopardise the promise of money, prestige and local bragging rights in favour of common courtesy and camaraderie on the field speaks volumes about the value of sportsmanship in a sport which many see as having suffered a moral degeneration in recent years. Amidst this backdrop, the result of a 3-2 victory for Leicester almost pales into virtual insignificance. How often can we enjoy the luxury of saying that?"

Hearts fans honour opposition

Scottish football was in a state of shock and mourning when the captain of Scottish premiere football team Motherwell FC, Phil O'Donnell, collapsed on the pitch whilst playing against Dundee United. Despite being tended to immediately by doctors and being taken away by ambulance, he was pronounced dead soon after 5pm (29th December 2007). Phil O'Donnell's family, friends, fellow players, Motherwell Football Club and the whole of Scottish football bereaved the loss of this fine footballer.

He played for Motherwell from 1990-'94, Celtic `94-'99, Sheffield Wednesday '99 - `03 and once again rejoined Motherwell 04-07. He scored a diving header in the 1991 Scottish Cup Final win against Dundee United. He also won Scottish PFA Young Player Of The Year award twice (in '92 and '94). Years later, as a 35 year-old, he played alongside his nephew, David Clarkson, who scored two goals in Phil's final game. He also played for Scotland.

A small boy who placed his football shirt alongside the many thousands of shirts and flowers had written on his shirt 'God must have needed a captain'.

Although Motherwell's next game after the funeral was cancelled, they eventually had to play again. Their first game after the tragedy was against Hearts. When the Motherwell team bus arrived at Hearts FC, the Motherwell team bus was given a standing ovation by the Hearts fans as they got off the bus. Phil's requiem mass pamphlet said, 'Divided by team, united in grief.'

It happened in 2007...

Football - AC Milan avenged their Champions League Final defeat in 2005 by defeating Liverpool 2-1 in the final, held in Athens.

Boxing - Joe Calzaghe defeated Mikkel Kessler in a unification bout for the WBA, WBC and WBO super middleweight titles. He became the first undisputed super middleweight champion.

Cricket - Australia completed a 5-0 whitewash over England in the 2006-07 Ashes series, the first time since 1920-21 that one team has won all the Tests in an Ashes series.

We're in it, for the love of it.





