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# Club Review

VOLUME 31 - Issue 8, 2018



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## A message from your Chairman



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

As the end of 2018 approaches I reflect on what might have been to make life somewhat easier for the registered club sector. Of course I speak of the long overdue amendments to Northern Ireland's licensing legislation, which includes changes in the legislation pertaining to registered clubs.

The Clubs Order should have by now seen a more suitable set of Accounts regulations, together with the restriction on advertising being eradicated, and of course the increase in opening hours in respect to children/young people on the premises of a club with a sports registration.

However, in general, the Legislative Assembly remaining suspended has impacted on life which we very much hope can be resolved as soon as possible for the benefit of everyone..

Despite this unfortunate situation, it was imperative that we as a Federation, continued to focus on those things we could assist our members with,

such as the preferential Sky TV tariff for club premises, and particularly being helpful for those clubs which enjoy sport and recreational rating relief.

In consideration that the said tariff was the result of three years of negotiations, which included meetings in London at Sky HQ, and at the CORCA meeting in London and, importantly, added to by meetings with the rating agency in Belfast, we have not given up hope of our Legislative Assembly re-sitting in 2019.

The benefit for our member clubs with substantial sports and leisure facilities has been a Federation success story, which continues to provide benefits. Of course it was important that this provided mutual benefits for Sky TV, which has seen the working relationship develop to the benefit of both parties.

We continue to receive numerous queries on labour relations issues, which is not helped by what seems to be overly complicated employment legislation. While it is important that employees rights are protected, it is difficult for a lay person to navigate employment law.

**This focuses on our continuing advice to engage with the cover provided under your club policy, which if with Rollins Club Insurance, is provided by 'DAS'. If your**

**club policy is with another provider, you should check immediately, if this cover is included.**

A number of our registered clubs continue to face difficult times, with a degree of uncertainty with what is likely to result from the Brexit negotiations, which seems to be a bargaining shop at present. It may have been best for respective UK political leaders not to assume that a vote to stay in was a certainty. Nevertheless, we are where we are, and can only hope that the outcome will provide all that we hope for.

As referred to in my address in 2017, the consultation on entertainment licensing, established by the then Minister,

Mark Durkan, continues to be in limbo, despite everyone on the panel, including myself, the Federation Secretary, Harry Beckinsale, and other department representatives, agreeing the changes to be implemented.

We seek to achieve a further dimension of rating relief, to that already available to registered sports clubs. It is hoped to obtain more clarity on the areas within a club which may qualify for inclusion in the said rating relief. I had hoped to have a positive message to convey to members by the time of the Federation AGM in March 2018, but regretfully such was not the case. However, we have been contacted regarding the 2020

*continued on page 4*

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rating review, so its very much a case of watch this space.

As in all past years, the continued 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 all our suppliers, and assure them of the importance of their assistance.

I also wish 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 Executive Committee colleagues,

for the role they played in the growth of the Federation.

Thanks is extended to Media Marketing, for the range of administrative services and facilities placed at the Federations disposal; Federation solicitor, Maura McKay of Shean Dickson Merrick; and Federation accountant, Lawrence Shearer of O'Hara Shearer Chartered Accountants.

Associations are essential if we are to achieve our goals. Member clubs and their officials can feel reassured that we will continue in the search for improved conditions for our 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

## RAOB supporting local charities



Pictured above are senior officials and members of the RAOB, with representatives of Cancer Focus NI and N.I. Chest Heart and Stroke, at the recent RAOB HQ. annual fundraising presentation in Belfast, where each charity was presented with a donation of £4,000. This is a truly magnificent effort, and yet another example of the excellent support provided by registered clubs in support of local charities and good causes, reinforcing the community aspect of our sector.

## Making Tax Digital - What you need to know

Making Tax Digital (MTD) comes into force on 1st April 2019 and is a major change to the administration of the tax system. Keeping your financial records will become increasingly digital and most businesses will need to use software to keep business records. For clubs who still use manual record keeping, they will have to engage an accountant to process this information to HMRC on their behalf, making sure that the accountant they engage is MTD ready. For clubs, this is probably the most important change in the administration of the tax system since the introduction of VAT in 1973.

### Essential elements for clubs:

- **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 accountants 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 to reconsider what work you decide to do yourself and which services you wish us to provide.

### 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 do clubs 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 your accountant prepares your VAT return he must ensure compliance with MTD for VAT and Machine Games Duty (MGD). They 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, it will need to be upgraded or new software acquired.
  - If the club currently maintains VAT records on a spreadsheet you will need to acquire software which will allow returns and updates to be made directly from the spreadsheets.
- A club can continue to use spreadsheets or manual books etc. to maintain financial records e.g. cash received book and cheque/direct debits ledgers, but the club's accountant should be in a position to reanalyse and

post the club's spreadsheets or manual book records to HMRC compliant software (used in the accountants practice).

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.

In respect of corporation and other taxes, MTD will not become mandatory until at least 2020 by which time there will be greater clarity of the full record keeping requirement for clubs. Clubs should raise MTD with their own accountants to ensure that they are prepared for this change.

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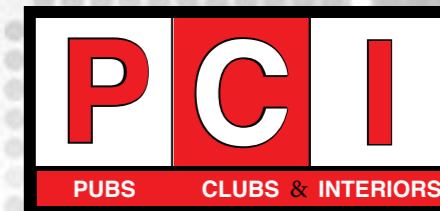
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## Winter weather - is your club prepared?

Over recent years, increasingly extreme weather patterns and snowfall are causing disruptions and creating hazards that can lead to slips and falls. Clubs should endeavour to make the entrances and exits to the club as safe as possible.

**Gritting & Protecting Surfaces**  
Arrangements should be made to minimise risks from snow and ice, by gritting, snow clearing and the closure of some pathways, particularly outside stairs. It is wise to keep a good supply of grit handy to help clear them. Gritting is not an automatic way of ensuring you are blameless but it is definitely recommended, especially around important thoroughfares like car-parks, entrances and exits.

### Temporary Closures & Footwear

If some pathways or entrances become too dangerous or troublesome to clear, place barriers and signs to close any footpaths that may propose a significant risk. Also, making sure all employees are wearing correct footwear is advisable to help protect against avoidable slips/falls. Alternatively, if the club's clothing policy typically involves smarter shoes, it could be worthwhile to allow boots or more hard-wearing footwear during winter.

### Preparation and Reaction

Ignorance is not a defence against a claim, so make sure steps are taken to reduce foreseeable risk whenever possible. Paying attention to

weather forecasts can help you get a head start in preparing for upcoming hazardous conditions, such as pre-emptively laying down grit or arranging appropriate signage to be placed on pathways.

### Records

It's important to document as much as possible, such as retaining invoices/receipts for items, in order to show you have taken an active effort to combat the problems and potential dangers caused by snow and ice. Keep a log to demonstrate when snow and ice have appeared and the action taken to reduce the risk posed. Remember, a claimant has three years from the date of the incident in which to pursue a claim, so it is important that

checklists and logs are retained for at least this period. Incidents which could give rise to a claim should be communicated to the club's insurers. Arrange to take photos of the area where the accident took place to demonstrate conditions at the time, especially if you have made attempts to make the club safer. If you have CCTV covering the area, ensure that any images are retained securely for three years.

### Written Warnings and Signage

Arrange to have some written instructions and warning signage on hand to inform members of the public that there is a risk of falling/slipping and that reasonable care should be taken. Not providing these warning signs will leave the club more open to a liability claim.

## Calculating holidays at Christmas

Christmas is a very busy time for holiday requests. Clubs should be aware that you can designate specific periods of the year where no employees can take holiday time. In the hospitality industry, December and, to a lesser extent, November are often declared as times where employees cannot take holidays.

All employees are entitled to 5.6 weeks of holiday per year. A holiday year can be the calendar year, the financial year or any other yearly time-frame the club may wish to use. The 5.6 weeks of holiday time applies to all employees, full, part-time and casual, although it is only applied to a typical week of work. Therefore, a part-time employee will still receive 5.6 weeks leave, although if they

only work 3 days a week, then their 'holiday week' will only be for their usual 3 days of working.

If a member of staff works on a casual basis, or very irregular hours, then working out the accrued holiday entitlement can be more difficult than for full or part-time employees on set hours. It is therefore often easiest to calculate holiday entitlement that accrues as hours worked. The holiday entitlement of 5.6 weeks is equivalent to 12.07% of hours worked over a year.

Therefore, if an employee works 10 hours, they are entitled to 72.6 minutes paid holiday time ( $12.07/100 \times 10 = 1.21$  hours = 72.63 minutes). You simply



adapt this to include how many hours the employee has worked and you can calculate how much time they are due off.

When an employee requests holiday then you simply work out how many hours they have worked and see how much time they have accrued - replace the above figures with the hours that the employee has worked

up to that point and it will calculate how much holiday they are entitled to at that moment.

There is a Government calculator which can assist with all types of holiday questions and we recommend clubs use it if in doubt about how much leave an employee is due: <https://www.gov.uk/calculate-your-holiday-entitlement>

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## Questions & Answers

**Q.** A Member has been proposed for the Committee which has caused concern to the current Committee. There have been allegations made against this person previously and we do not think it would be good for the Club if they were elected to the Committee. Can we refuse to let this Member stand for election to the Committee?

**A.** The Committee is unable to veto a new Committee Member or a candidate for the Committee.  
Whilst I understand your reasons for wishing to do so I am also sure you understand why a Club Committee is not given the power to prevent a Member from being elected to the Committee. We would usually hope that there is a broad selection of nominations to the Committee which would allow for the Club Members to vote for their preferred candidates. This means that the Members will elect the candidates that they consider are best placed to represent their interests and take the Club forward in a positive direction. It can be a problem when you have fewer nominations than available



places since these persons are automatically elected. The Committee could consider a reduction of the size of the Committee going forwards which could prevent this type of situation from occurring in the future. Regarding this specific Member, if there have been allegations made about them then the Committee can use the Club's disciplinary procedures to address the allegations. This would be the correct way to deal with the allegations rather than to try and prevent them from standing for election to the Committee.

**Q.** We have the problem of a large membership base but few 'core' users. The Committee have suggested we survey the Members and find out what we could do to increase their usage of the Club. Do you have any suggestions for how such a survey should work or what we should seek to establish?

**A.** I think it is useful to look at his type of situation every so often. You are not unique in having the problem of many Members but not too much core usage.

Surveys will be helpful to an extent although they often rely on a Member who does not use the Club often being able to put into words or answers exactly why they do not use the Club too often. It could be the Club's fault for not ensuring that the services and facilities which are offered appeal to the wider membership instead of the core users but whether or not the Members concerned would be able to explain this is a question. For good reason Clubs are often geared to serve the members who use them most frequently - this approach may not always be the best approach to ensure

that the widest proportion of member's possible use the Club regularly although ultimately putting off a frequent member to encourage a non-frequent member to attend more can be self-defeating. There is no easy answer on this point.

It is also difficult to get people to respond to surveys in large numbers - if you have email addresses then there are some online solutions which may assist or include the survey on the membership renewal form. A good way to do a survey would be to incentivise it, e.g. offer a free drink voucher for every Member who completes the survey for example.

Whilst there are some difficulties I do think the survey is worth pursuing. I would suggest that the following survey categories be looked into:

- Drinks - Beer, Wine, Spirits, Soft Drinks etc. - What do Members think of the Club's current selection. Do they want specific items added to the menu? Do they want specific groups of items to be investigated - more local beers, a greater variety of new world wines by the glass etc. Surveys can be useful to tell you the general area you can improve on but often Members themselves will not be able to name a specific product they want added but will be able to describe if they want more choice, or more products of a certain price point or from a local area (perhaps introducing rotating local beers).
- Food - Are they happy with what the Club offers. Do they want to see more of a certain type of food - bar snacks, meals etc. Are there times

*continued on page 12*

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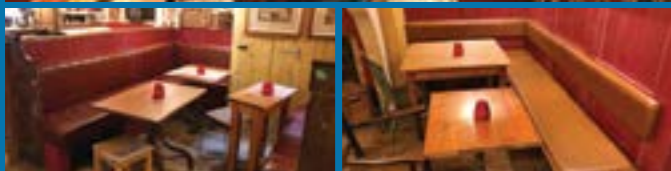
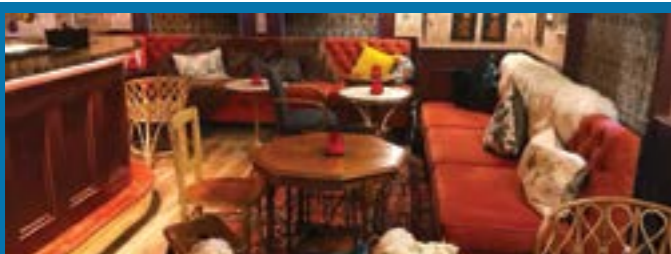
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when they want food or bar snacks but the Club does not serve food at those times? It may be that Members do not need a full catered service but are just happy with bar snacks such as homemade sausage rolls and sandwiches.

- Entertainment - Does the entertainment the Club offers bring them to the Club or does it put them off. Would they come into the Club if entertainment such as Bingo, Cards, Quizzes were offered? Equally, does the singer the Club hosts on Saturday night put some Members off from attending? The survey should be as much discovering what current activities need to be changed as to finding out what new items to introduce.
- The feel of the Club - Are they proud of the Club. Would they be proud to bring a friend to the Club. Do they feel welcome when they attend the Club, do they

think the outside or the inside of the Club could use some improvements. What about the furniture and layout of the bar and communal areas.

Finally, their general activities - do they eat and drink out a lot and only occasionally use the Club? If this is the case, then why only occasional usage. If they do not eat and drink out a lot is there something the Club could offer that would encourage them to use the Club more often. If a Member goes out a lot but only uses the Club infrequently, why is that? These are the type of areas we would look at regarding the proposed survey.

**Q.** I am a Club Secretary and receive an honorarium. Do I have to pay tax on this?

**A.** Some Secretaries, although not employed, do receive payments of honoraria in compensation for the time they spend on their voluntary

duties. An honorarium is, by definition, a 'voluntary fee for a voluntary service.' It is accepted that an honorarium is not a salary and in the past recipients of honoraria have been left to declare the sums received on their personal tax returns, which include their other earnings.

Since 1993, HMRC has taken the view that 'in general, honoraria are taxable and it is up to the payer to deduct tax under PAYE.' The 'payer' in such cases is the club and not, for example, the Treasurer who may pay his own honorarium to himself as a matter of practice. HMRC advises: 'If you are paying an honorarium for the first time, or if payments you have made before have not been taxed under PAYE, your Tax Office will tell you what to do.' The Tax Office referred to here is the one which covers the address of the club and may not be the same as the office-holder's own Tax Office.

**Q.** Due to falling membership levels, a new member of our Committee has suggested that we try to 'recruit' new members from several new housing complexes that have been built in and around our area. Another member of Committee has advised that our rule book states that any new member joining needs to be known by and proposed and seconded by two current members. Is there a way that we can work around this rule?

**A.** Technically the member in question is correct in stating that Candidates for membership must be known to their proposers and seconders. However, if members are

unwilling to recruit new members then the club will not survive in the long term. The club may promote the occasional Open Day during which members of the Public could be invited in to view the club and at such events could be meet members and in particular members of the Committee who may feel able to get to propose them as Candidates. I am sure that in most cases a bit of common sense is all that is required and if the occasional unsuitable member slips through the net, they can soon be dealt with under the rules. If an Open Day is arranged, it will need to have a Temporary Event Notice in place.

**Q.** Following a recent VAT inspection, HMRC questioned our practice of not applying VAT on room hire to members or on income from the snooker table light meters. Can you please confirm your advice previously given on this subject?

**A.** The club is correct in not applying VAT on these two specific sources of income. The hire of the club's rooms to members is exempt from VAT and Section 10 of Notice 701/5 Clubs and Associations refers to this particular matter. The use of snooker table light meters is also exempt from VAT and Section 3.5.7 of Notice 701/45 Sport refers to this matter. I support your reply to HMRC giving details of the above Notice references stating that the club is not in breach of any VAT payment requirements.

*If you have any questions you need answered for your club, then please send them to us at: [info@nifederationofclubs.com](mailto:info@nifederationofclubs.com)*

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Chelsea v Fulham  
Sunday 2 December, 12pm



Arsenal v Tottenham  
Sunday 2 December, 2.05pm



Liverpool v Everton  
Sunday 2 December, 4.15pm

### PLUS



Liverpool v Man Utd  
Sunday 16 December, 4pm  
Premier League



Derby v Nottingham Forest  
Monday 17 December, 7.45pm  
Sky Bet Championship



Rangers v Celtic  
Saturday 29 December, 12.30pm  
Scottish Premiership



Man City v Liverpool  
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# Wrap up 2018 and kick off 2019 with Sky Sports!



Sky Sports are offering a real Christmas cracker of a festive period with Premier League club clashes, local rival challenges within the English Football League and the return of the World Darts Championship.

United and high-flying Norwich visit Bristol City. 2019 kicks off with a cracker at the City Ground as Nottingham Forest take on Leeds, with Marcelo Bielsa facing Frank Lampard the weekend after as Derby travel to Elland Road.

Clubs can look forward to football lighting up their screens and attracting more people into their venues with over 40 festive games exclusively live on Sky Sports. December starts off with a hat-trick of Premier League derbies starting with Chelsea welcoming Fulham at Stamford Bridge, before heading north to The Emirates as Arsenal host Tottenham Hotspur; and finishing in Anfield as Liverpool face Everton.

Arsenal's Carabao Cup quarter-final tie with Tottenham will be shown live on Sky Sports, just two weeks after the Gunners hosts Spurs in the Premier League for the first time this season. Other quarter-final matches include Middlesbrough v Burton Albion and Chelsea v Bournemouth to decide who will be the final two teams to enter February's final.

December continues to pack all the punches as Dillian Whyte and Dereck Chisora enter the ring in a rematch at The O2 on Saturday 22nd December. The heavyweight duo will collide again, just over two years since Whyte claimed a hotly-disputed split decision victory. Both Londoners will be keen to have the final word in a long-running



dispute, with the winner staying firmly in world title contention, while the loser's career will be dealt a huge blow in more ways than one!

Alexandra Palace plays host for another year of the World Darts Championship. From 13th December to 1st January, venues can enjoy 16 days of live

darts action as Sky Sports is once again the place to watch the most popular darts event of the year. A record field of 96 players will assemble in north London for the biggest and best darts tournament. Will Rob Cross maintain his winning streak for another year; or will Michael Van Gerwen reclaim the grand prize?

# WKD cocktail baubles: The recipe for Christmas success

With innovative festive activity that is set to raise both smiles and sales, WKD is bringing the humble Christmas bauble from tree-tops to bar-tops in the form of seasonally shaped cocktail pitchers. Thousands of eye-catching WKD Cocktail Baubles are being distributed across the on-trade for licensees to serve special sharing cocktails from. Shaped in the style of classic Christmas tree decorations, the multi-serve cocktail pitchers will bring theatre to outlets and a humorous festive twist to proceedings. With four delicious seasonal recipes (*Berry Christmas, Halo Cheeky, Mango Ho Ho and WKD Frostbite*), WKD sharing cocktails are a great way for groups of friends to enjoy Northern Ireland's No.1 traditional ready to drink brand with complementing spirits, liqueurs and soft drink mixers.

The festive cocktail recipes are quick and easy for staff to mix, and the multi-serve format will not only create a visual impact but also ease pressure at the bar during key trading periods. With themed posters, table-talkers and in-outlet screen media making club/pub-goers aware of what's on offer, the

WKD Cocktail Baubles will help create a great atmosphere and generate fun nights for friends. A mixing guide is designed for sharing and should be served with glasses is also being provided. WKD has a strong track-record of producing attention-grabbing shaped cocktail vessels for the on-trade. The Christmas Bauble variant is brand new for 2018; it has a real talk-about factor and will help drive WKD sales for stockists during the key festive period.

A social media campaign will support the in-outlet activity, raising awareness of the special cocktails and encouraging consumers to seek out WKD's over-sized festive baubles. The digital support will also include opportunities for consumers to win seasonal giveaways, such as WKD bobble-hats and Christmas Bauble pitchers.

"High-energy or celebratory occasions with friends are what RTDs are all about," explains Amanda Grabham, Head of Brand Marketing - Alcohol at SHS Drinks, owner of WKD. "Our impactful Christmas pitchers will not only bring



festive fun to outlets but will also help licensees maximise seasonal opportunities by encouraging consumers to trade-up to multi-serve cocktails. The activity will both support WKD stockists and engage WKD consumers. The best way to build festive sales is to ensure that customers

have a great time. People want to have fun at Christmas, so outlets need to gear-up to deliver memorable nights out; with our Cocktail Baubles, seasonal POS and a huge awareness-raising social media campaign, WKD has things all wrapped up," Grabham concludes.

### Exciting months of sport are ahead of us and these are the fixtures not to be missed;

#### DECEMBER

- Sunday 2nd Dec. - Chelsea v Fulham - kick off 12.00
- Sunday 2nd Dec. - Arsenal v Tottenham - kick off 14.05
- Sunday 2nd Dec. - Liverpool v Everton - kick off 16.15
- Thursday 13th Dec. to 1st January - 2018/19 World Darts Championship
- Saturday 15th Dec. - Manchester City v Everton - kick off 12.30
- Sunday 16th Dec. - Liverpool v Manchester Utd - kick off 16.00
- Monday 17th Dec. - Derby County v Notts. Forest - kick off 19.45
- Tuesday 18th Dec. - Carabao Cup Quarter Finals: Middlesbrough v Burton Albion - kick off 19.45

- Tuesday 18th Dec. - Carabao Cup Quarter Finals: Arsenal v Tottenham - kick off 19.45
- Saturday 22nd Dec. - Boxing: Whyte v Chisora
- Sunday 23rd Dec. - Everton v Tottenham Hotspur - kick off 16.00
- Wednesday 26th Dec. - International Cricket: 1st Test South Africa v Pakistan - start 08.00
- Wednesday 26th Dec. - Sheffield Utd v Derby County - kick off 15.00
- Sunday 30th Dec. - Crystal Palace v Chelsea - kick off 12.00

#### JANUARY

- Tuesday 1st Jan. - Notts Forest v Leeds Utd - kick off 15.00
- Wednesday 2nd Jan. - Newcastle Utd v Manchester Utd - kick off 20.00
- Thursday 3rd Jan. - Manchester City v Liverpool - kick off 20.00

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# Black Bush Alight will fuse the worlds of Irish whiskey and candle making

Bushmills® Irish Whiskey will present the latest instalment of the #BlackBushStories event series next month, 'Black Bush Alight'. The collaborative events showcase and celebrate the stories of Irish talent who have gone against the grain to follow their passion and become champions in their chosen field.

The creative force behind the Bearded Candle Makers, Belfast-born Michael Morris, has partnered with Bushmills Irish Whiskey to create a limited edition winter candle and to host a hands-on candle making workshop at The Menagerie in Belfast across two nights on 12th and 13th

every candle by hand, from inception to postage, Michael shares his history with people all over the world, helping evoke memories of their own.

The evening will offer whiskey enthusiasts the opportunity to understand the art of documenting scent and create their very own keepsake candle, inspired by the rich, fruity notes and deep intense taste of Bushmills Black Bush®. As well as crafting their own candle, attendees will hear Michael's story first-hand and experience how he followed his passion in making Bearded Candle Makers his career. An educational tasting session on some of the best-



loved Bushmills whiskeys will kick off the night and specially-created Black Bush winter drinks will also be served throughout the evening.

The limited edition Black Bush inspired candles created by Michael are available to win at blackbushstories.com and are the perfect whiskey drinking companion this festive season.

To register for 'Black Bush Alight' and to hear more about Michael's story, visit [blackbushstories.com](http://blackbushstories.com).

To join in the conversation and keep up to date with the #BlackBushStories series, follow Bushmills Irish Whiskey on social media.



Michael Morris hard at work.

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from our business to yours, this Christmas!



## Season's Greetings from Counterpoint

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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.

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



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## Northern Ireland men best chance of surviving prostate cancer in the UK

Northern Ireland men have the best chance of surviving prostate cancer in the UK, the Cancer Focus Northern Ireland annual Men's Health Conference has heard recently.

Professor Joe O'Sullivan, from Queen's University Belfast (QUB), addressed delegates on the theme, Prostate Cancer in Northern Ireland: Improving Lives and Lifestyles.

Prof. O'Sullivan, said that there was a "significant difference" in survival rates between Northern Ireland and other UK regions.

More than 1,000 men are diagnosed with the disease in Northern Ireland each year, making it the most common form of male cancer here. Of these, around 270 die annually.

Prof. O'Sullivan said that the disease was becoming more common, largely because of

improved life expectancy. There was also better treatment available now, particularly radiotherapy which, he said, was "state of the art" in Northern Ireland and dramatically improved the chance of survival.

"There has been a 40% reduction in prostate cancer death in the UK in the last 15 years. I would predict a further decrease in mortality in the years to come," he added.

He also stressed the importance of research. "Even a small country like ours can be involved in world leading research. We have a prostate cancer centre of excellence at Queen's, with a large portfolio of trials and around 3,500 local men taking part in them."

The professor said that leading research was also a quality driver that improved the health service generally.



(l-r) Gerry McElwee, head of cancer prevention, Cancer Focus NI; Tristan Kelso, British Dental Association NI; and guest speaker, Gillian Prue, Queen's University Belfast, call for HPV vaccination for boys in Northern Ireland to be introduced urgently.

Other speakers at the conference included Dr Gillian Prue, QUB, who spoke about the importance of the HPV vaccine for males. Barry Rooney, from the South East Trust, addressed the conference about the health promotion work being done at HMP

Maghaberry, Sandra Gordon from Cancer Focus NI and Paul Thompson, Probation Board NI, spoke on the PBNI Lifestyle project, and Maresa McGettigan, from Cancer Focus NI, talked about the Big Lottery Fund Well Aware project for the over 60s.

## Air Ambulance NI



Get to know more about YOUR Air Ambulance NI Air Ambulance NI (AANI), in partnership with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS), provides the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) for the region.

Serious or life-threatening situations can happen to anyone at any time and on average, every single day in Northern Ireland, one individual finds themselves in desperate need of AANI. The charity's operational helicopter carries a crew compiling pilot, doctor,

a paramedic, 365 days of the year, operating for twelve hours every day. They attend some of the most traumatic medical incidents across the province and are dedicated to delivering the very best possible pre-hospital care, both at the scene anti whilst transferring the patient to the most appropriate hospital for their specific injuries.

Our EC135 helicopter can get anywhere in the province in approximately twenty-five to thirty minutes and the rapid response is vital in an emergency

situation. If a patient reaches hospital within the Golden Hour (60 minutes after their injury) their chances of survival are dramatically increased.

What is not widely known is that AANI is a charity. Each day costs in the region of £5,500 and £2m is needed each year to keep their air ambulance service operational. They rely entirely on support from the public and local businesses, including gifts in wills.



NIFC Secretary, Harry Beckinsale, with Kerry Anderson and Dr Andrew Topping, at a recent visit to the AANI Headquarters, Maze.

AANI is fortunate to count on tremendous public support and good will, and never take this for granted. It's not only the medical crew who save lives, but the people who support their service.

## Down Royal Festival of Racing celebrates 20th anniversary in style



The 20th, and final, Down Royal Festival of Racing has taken place at Down Royal Racecourse, with Road to Respect taking home the last ever JNwine.com Champions Chase title.

The two-day event of World Class National Hunt Racing culminated in a fantastic win by Road to Respect ridden by Sean Flanagan, who powered away from Woodland Opera in the final stretch to take the victory.

The Grade 1 Chase is the curtain opener for the season and has completely revolutionised National Hunt racing in Ireland, and this final renewal was a fitting celebration for the crowds at Down Royal Racecourse.

Day one of the Festival kicked off with The Eventsec Maiden Hurdle, which was also won

by Sean Flanagan riding First Approach, while Rachel Blackmore rode a stunning race to take Bedrock to victory in The WKD Grade 2 Hurdle.

Off the track, Eamonn Carr from Armagh was named Most Stylishly Dressed Male and was presented with a bespoke tailoring experience with Suitor Brothers Belfast, as well as a supply of WKD from the Festival sponsors.

Day two, JNwine.com Ladies Day, saw specially invited guests gather for a celebration of Ladies in Racing including Sandra Hughes, Maureen Mullins, Jessica Harrington and Nina Carberry.

Alice Plunkett, presenter of ITV Racing, was on hand to give tips and expert commentary of the races - some of the most applauded in the industry, including the JNwine.com Champion Chase.



JNwine.com Champion Chase winner, Sean Flanagan, pictured with Road To Respect trainer, Noel Meade. Picture © Matt Mackey / Press Eye.

Also crowned on Ladies Day was the winner of the Billecart-Salmon Most Stylishly Dressed Lady competition. It was Shileen McConville from Lurgan who walked away with a bespoke prize of two nights in Paris, before travelling to Mareuil-sur-Aÿ to stay at the

Billecart-Salmon Champagne House, enjoying an overnight stay, dinner in the 17th century house and a tour of the vineyards.

General Manager of Down Royal Racecourse, Mike Todd said of the 20th anniversary event; "The 20th Down Royal Festival of Racing has been a huge success, with some thrilling races and even more exciting winners.

"What's special about this year is that all those who attended, raced, and won, will go down in the history books as being part of our 20th celebrations. On behalf of everyone at Down Royal Racecourse, I'd like to thank our sponsors, partners, staff and racegoers, for making this weekend an amazing celebration of 20 years of the Down Royal Festival of Racing and a phenomenal two days of world class racing."



Off the track, County Armagh swept up the awards over the two days of racing, with Armagh man Eamonn Carr collecting the prize for Most Stylishly Dressed Male, and Shileen McConville from Lurgan, the Most Stylishly Dressed Lady title. Photo by Kelvin Boyes / Press Eye

## UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winner

by Tony McGee

October was one of the busiest months this year, with club games dominating the GAA scene. That meant there was plenty to consider for our Quinn Building Products-UGAAWA Merit Award. But when everything was sifted through, the gong rang for Ballycran hurler, James Coyle.

Not only did the No 15 hit the net twice but he was central to the biggest upset in any of the championships this year. The Down champions dethroned the high-riding Slaughtneil who were Ulster club kingpins for the past few seasons, which made Ballycran a 9/1 shot.

"I'm delighted to receive this award," enthused James at a reception in Quinn's Corner, Donaghmore. "I have to thank my team-mates for helping me to win this award - for giving me the opportunity to win it. It is really an award for the 17 players who took part in the game and I thank the Ulster GAA Writers, sincerely, for honouring me."

Ballycran pulled off a surprising 4-15 to 1-14 victory over holders Slaughtneil at Corrigan Park with Coyle (29) netting twice but, also, having a hand in the overall scheme of this remarkable win that sent the Mourne men into the final, against Cushendall, at Armagh, with great confidence.

Coyle got the nod for the award ahead of Scotstown's Conor McCarthy, who had a tremendous game in the football championship defeat of Derrygonnelly, and Crossmaglen's Rian O'Neill, who starred, particularly when moved to midfield



Quinn Building Products Sales & Managing Director, Seamus McMahon (left), presents the UGAAWA October Merit Award to Down hurler, James Coyle, with UGAAWA Chairman, John Martin. Picture by Jim Dunne

in the second half, against Ballymacnab in the Armagh SFC final.

Coming under the spotlight, too, was Castleblayney hurler Fergal Rafter who gave an exhibition of free-taking, including pointing a sideline puck, in the UJHC semi-final against Clonduff, at Crossmaglen.

The presentation to James Coyle, who received an engraved Belleek Living Vase, hand-crafted silver cuff links from Carlingford Design House and training gear from O'Neill's International Sportswear, was made by Quinn Building Products Sales & Marketing Director Seamus McMahon. In addition, he will receive two complimentary tickets to the UGAAWA annual Presentation Dinner on 1st February 2019.

## Leinster win hurling final



Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, John Horan, with winning Leinster captain, Sean Bennett (left), and Paul Tobin following the M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling All-Ireland Finals match with Munster and Leinster at the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown, Dublin. Photo by Barry Cregg/Sportsfile

## It's a clean sweep for Glenavon



Glenavon boss, Gary Hamilton, collects his October Manager of the Month Award from Keith Bailie.



Glenavon midfielder, Andy Hall, is the NI Football Writers Association Player of the Month for October.

Gary Hamilton has been named Manager of the Month for October by the Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association.

The Glenavon gaffer completed the month with a 100% record, claiming league wins over Coleraine, Glentoran and Newry City, as well as a Mid-Ulster Cup win over Loughgall.

It's the fourth time Hamilton has won the prestigious award and the second time he has won it this season.

Upon collecting the Belleek trophy, Hamilton said, "It's a

great honour to win this award two times in a row and I would like to thank the Football Writers' for recognising our achievements this year.

"Personally, I believe that my players deserve all the credit for this award as they have been the ones who have performed well on a consistent basis.

"We had a fantastic October and although we started November with a defeat, I'm delighted with our form in recent weeks."

Glenavon FC midfielder Andy Hall has been named NIFWA Player of the Month for October.

Winger, Hall, helped the Lurgan Blues to three league victories in the month, scoring against both Glentoran and Newry City.

Hall said, "I really didn't expect to win this award. I'm delighted and I would like to thank the Football Writers' for the Belleek trophy.

"I would also like to thank the coaching staff and my teammates at Glenavon, as without them I would not be in this position."

Hall's manager Gary Hamilton was also keen to praise Hall. He said, "I'm delighted Andy has won this award because I don't think he gets the recognition he deserves. He is one of the most underrated players in the league. He has been fantastic in recent months and this award is fully deserved."



Dundela FC's Jordan Hughes has won the NIFWA Championship Player of the Month award for October.

Hughes, who also won the September award, has been in superb form for the Duns in recent months. He scored seven goals in October including a hat-trick against Ballyclare Comrades at Dixon Park.

# 1967

## Lisbon Lions triumph



The magnificent "Lisbon Lions", the first British side to win the coveted European Cup.

In 1967 Celtic became the first British team to win the European Cup, beating favourites Inter Milan 2-1.

An estimated crowd of 70,000 crammed into the Portuguese National Stadium in Lisbon to witness the Glasgow side lift the greatest prize in club football.

Milan had been champions of Europe three times in the past four years and this was only their second defeat in continental competition in that time.

As the final whistle blew, euphoric Celtic fans poured onto the pitch to celebrate their team's victory, many whooping with joy and waving banners.

The manager, Jock Stein, said, 'There is not a prouder man on God's Earth than me at this moment. Winning was important, but it was the way that we won that has filled me with satisfaction. We did it by playing football; pure, beautiful, inventive football. There was not a negative thought in our heads.'

According to the Celtic players, Stein told his players to "go out and enjoy themselves" at the start of the match. But it could all have turned out very differently. Within minutes of kick-off defender Jim Craig felled Renato Cappellini and Alessandro Mazolla netted the resulting penalty. Milan held on to their early lead until half-time. But shortly after the break Celtic full-back Tommy Gemmel scored the equaliser. The goal gave Celtic the inspiration the players needed. They continued to attack the Italian goal until Gemmel again stormed up the left wing, passed back to Bobby Murdoch, who sent a powerful shot towards the goal which was deflected into the net by Stevie Chalmers to give the Glasgow side a 2-1 lead.

The celebrations began immediately and although the Portuguese police feared the crowd would get out of control, there was no hooliganism. But the chaos inside the stadium meant that the

Celtic players could not be presented with the trophy on the pitch. Instead, club captain Billy McNeill had to be ushered round the outside of the stadium under armed escort. He then climbed the stairs to the presentation podium where he finally held the trophy aloft to enormous cheers from the crowd. Jubilant fans danced in the streets of Glasgow after hearing of their club's 2-1 win.

The 11 players became known as the Lisbon Lions - the first non-Latin side to win the European championships, with all of them born within a 30 mile radius of Glasgow.

## Packers win Super Bowl I

With the American Football season now in full swing, we thought it appropriate to give the uninitiated of you an insight into the origins of the, now world famous, Super Bowl.



Packers coach, Vince Lombardi, whose name adorns the famous Super Bowl trophy.

The Super Bowl was created in 1967 when two rival leagues, the National Football League (NFL) and the American Football League (AFL), decided to merge. The AFL had become the NFL's first serious competitor for 40 years when it began in 1960, and within six years merger talks had started. It was decided during these talks that the winners of the respective leagues should meet on an annual basis to determine the world champion of American Football. This match would be known as the Super Bowl. The NFL originally wanted this clash of giants to be known as The Big One, but AFL founder Lamar Hunt came up with the name Super Bowl after seeing his daughter play with a toy called Super Ball. The name did not become official for another two years though, as owners originally labelled the contest with the less-than-inspiring title of AFL-NFL World Championship game.

Super Bowl I, which took place in 1967, was contested between the Green Bay Packers of the NFL and the Kansas City Chiefs of the AFL. The game was played in L.A., and over 61,000 fans watched the Packers take a 35-10 victory, and picking up the first Super Bowl trophy in the process.

## It happened in 1967...

**Football** - Tottenham Hotspur defeated Chelsea 2-1 to win the F.A. Cup, in what was known as the "Cockney Cup Final".

**Boxing** - Muhammad Ali was stripped of his World Heavyweight Champion titles and banned from boxing for his refusal to be inducted into the United States Army.

**Horse Racing** - Rank outsider Foinavon won the Grand National at odds of 100/1, after being the only horse to avoid a mêlée at the 23rd fence. The fence was officially named after Foinavon in 1984.

**Tennis** - Legendary American ladies player, Billy Jean King, defeated Britain's Ann Jones 6-3 6-4 to win the Women's Singles Championship.

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