

Review Club

Review

VOLUME 33 - Issue 1, 2020

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Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Hosted by the West Belfast Sports and Social Club on Wednesday 8th January 2020

The Chairman opened the meeting, following which he requested that the Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. These were subsequently passed as a true record by Gerry Gallagher and Brian McCartney.

The Secretary proceeded to cover the detail of correspondence received and forwarded.

Continuing, the Chairman provided details of our submission to the liquor licence review, and a request to meet DFC officials.

The detail of our foreword was also read out to those present, expressing support for amendments to the legislation to assist the overall leisure industry in bringing legislation up to modern day requirements in order to meet the needs of sports tourism and the leisure sector in general.

The Secretary provided the detail of information received from service providers, which will hopefully be helpful to members.

At this point the Treasurer provided a financial report, highlighting renewal of membership fees presently being received.

Correspondence will be forwarded to club secretaries soon, informing them of the Federation AGM, being held in the RAOB HQ Club in Belfast in March 2020.

We are presently engaged in examining the detail of the 2020 rating review to ascertain the potential financial impact likely to befall our members. However, the true story will have to await the rate in the pound to be set by respective councils. The meeting was concluded,



Federation Executive Committee members pictured at the West Belfast Sports and Social Club following their monthly meeting.

at which point the Chairman expressed thanks to the West Belfast Sports and Social Club for making their premises available for

the meeting and for the hospitality provided.

H. Beckinsale
Secretary, N.I. Federation of Clubs

Federation AGM

Clubs are reminded that the NI Federation of Clubs Annual General Meeting is being held in the RAOB HQ, 17 Church Street, Belfast, on Saturday 14th March 2020, from 10am - noon.

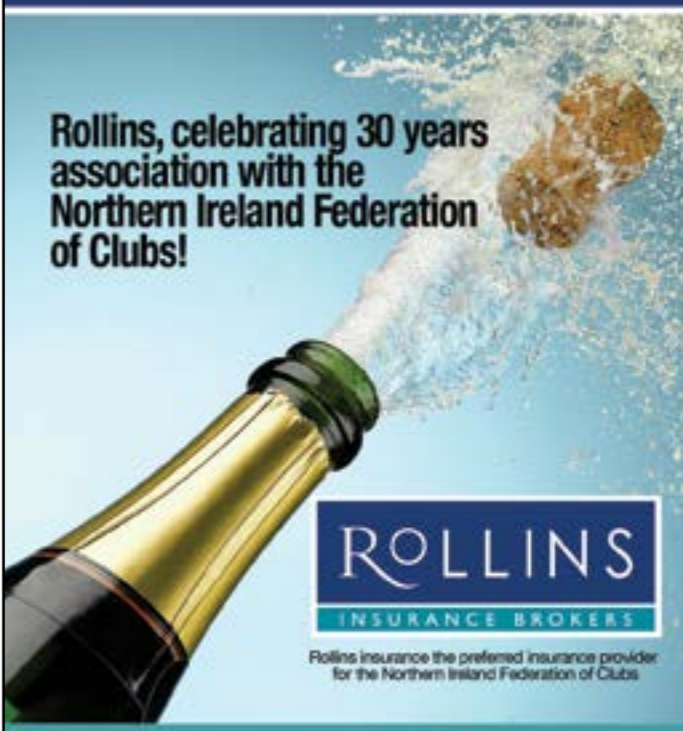
A letter of invitation to the AGM, is enclosed in your Club Review pack this month for the attention of your club secretary.

Clubs are urged to have someone in attendance as we will be providing an overview of several important issues which will affect your club:-

- Consultation on N. Ireland Liquor Licensing Legislation.
- Amendments to 1996 Clubs Order & Accounts Regulations.
- Report on the 2020 N.I. Rates Review and its impact.
- Sky TV tariff for registered clubs with a sports registration.
- Change to entertainment licensing process.
- Employment/employee issues.

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2020 rating review - cause for concern!

Now that the 2020 Review of Northern Ireland non-domestic rating has taken place, we have to anticipate that rates are likely to increase.

However following a meeting with the NI Rating Agency, it was not entirely clear to what the said increase may or may not be.

We were informed that the rate in the pound in Northern Ireland is the highest in the UK, in view of which our hope is that the increase in the NAV will be balanced to some extent by the rate in the pound being reduced. Upon viewing the current rate against the new one, we are concerned that impending increases will present a financial burden for many of our members.

The publicised substantial increases in the rating of Belfast hotels and bars in areas, such as the Cathedral Quarter, would appear to be a penalty on success, and we anticipate that registered clubs in those areas may be equally affected.

Together with the Northern Ireland Sports Forum, the Cricket Union, GAA Ulster and the Golfing Union (Ulster Branch), we will naturally explore the ramifications of these increases, which will also obviously impact on the wider leisure industry through sports tourism etc.

With the Legislative Assembly still in its infancy, we nevertheless seek to meet the Minister Conor Murphy to

enquire on what is likely to face the registered club sector, with many of its member associations still recovering from the economic crises.

We have engaged with Belfast City Council in order to provide some idea/insight to what is likely to be coming down the line from other councils.

Being faced with a rating increase is one thing, but consideration has to be afforded to ones ability to pay.

We were informed that all clubs will have received information and will have had the opportunity to appeal. However no one has recollection of such correspondence, which reduces

the time window for clubs to lodge an appeal.

With the Federation AGM taking place in March, we naturally hope to have accurate details of the impact of the Review.

Members will of course be updated when and as matters develop, and while we expect an overall increase in non-domestic rates, it remains to be seen to what extent that increase will be, mitigated by the rate in the pound set by respective councils.

Of course we are equally aware that Westminster has commented on numerous occasions, that in Northern Ireland, we are not required to pay water rates!

RAOB raise £9,000 for Air Ambulance NI



Members of the R.A.O.B. present a cheque for £9,000 to the Air Ambulance NI. A magnificent effort and congratulations to all involved.

The RAOB has raised an outstanding £9,000 for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland (AANI). As the organisation's selected charity partner throughout 2019, the RAOB has raised this generous total through a wide variety of fundraising efforts with all of their clubs getting involved.

Grace Williams, Area Fundraising Manager at AANI said, "We at Air Ambulance NI are very grateful to the RAOB for all of their support throughout 2019 and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for this wonderful donation. As our charity is in its infancy, public fundraising support is crucial, as each day we need to raise in the region of £5,500 to keep the service going. Serious or life-threatening situations can happen to anyone at any time, and every day in Northern Ireland, one individual finds themselves in desperate need of AANI. We're dedicated to delivering the very best possible patient care, so our service is often the difference between

life and death, making your support so vital."

AANI is a local charity that provides the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) for Northern Ireland, together with our partners at the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS). The service brings urgent medical assistance to anywhere in the province, operating seven days a week for 12 hours per day. It can get to anywhere in Northern Ireland in approximately twenty-five minutes.

AANI needs to raise £2million each year to maintain this service, so public and corporate donations like this one, are crucial. If you would like to donate, organise an event or could spare some time volunteering, please contact Air Ambulance NI by email at info@airambulancenl.org or call 028 9262 2677.



H&W Welders FSC cheques for charity



Representatives from local schools and charities pictured at the recent cheque presentation evening, held at the H&W Welders FSC, Belfast.

The annual H&W Welders charity cheque presentation evening was held at the club's Dee Street premises on 23rd January. This event, established for some years now, is organised

in association with Dundela F.C. and sees local charitable causes, community associations and schools each receive a donation of £500, which is highly valued at a time of budget constraints.

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From the Secretary's desk



Harry Beckinsale, Secretary,
N.I. Federation of Clubs

The Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs is delighted to acknowledge the importance of Cancer Focus Support.

At the recent meeting of the Federation Executive Committee, recognition was afforded to Cancer Focus NI, for their outstanding donation

of £300,000 made to pancreatic and oesophageal cancer research.

We are pleased to assist Cancer Focus through our network of clubs. Moreover, the circulation of their newsletter together with Club Review each year we hope will continue to encourage members to support this wonderful charity, when and where possible.

We are aware that the registered club sector has been recognised by NICVA for its support of charities and good causes, and to hear this recent news makes it ever more important for that support to continue.



Pretty 'n' pink
Congratulations are extended to Northern Ireland breast cancer charity, 'Pretty 'n' Pink', on the opening of a new hub in the Park Centre, Belfast.

The charity, founded in 2006, has been supporting men and women with breast cancer, and in 2019 helped over 300 patients and their families through funding of over £62,000.

This local charity can be proud of their achievements, and are excited to announce the launch of this, the first 'Pretty 'n' Pink' 'Information & Support Hub', which will include their administrative base, together with new support services, such as counselling, support, and complementary therapies, which



they believe are imperative to the emotional, mental and physical health of patients.

This is a huge milestone for Pretty 'n' Pink, and an appropriate tribute to their Founder Noleen, who would have been 41 years old this year.



Noleen Adair,
Founder of Pretty 'n' Pink
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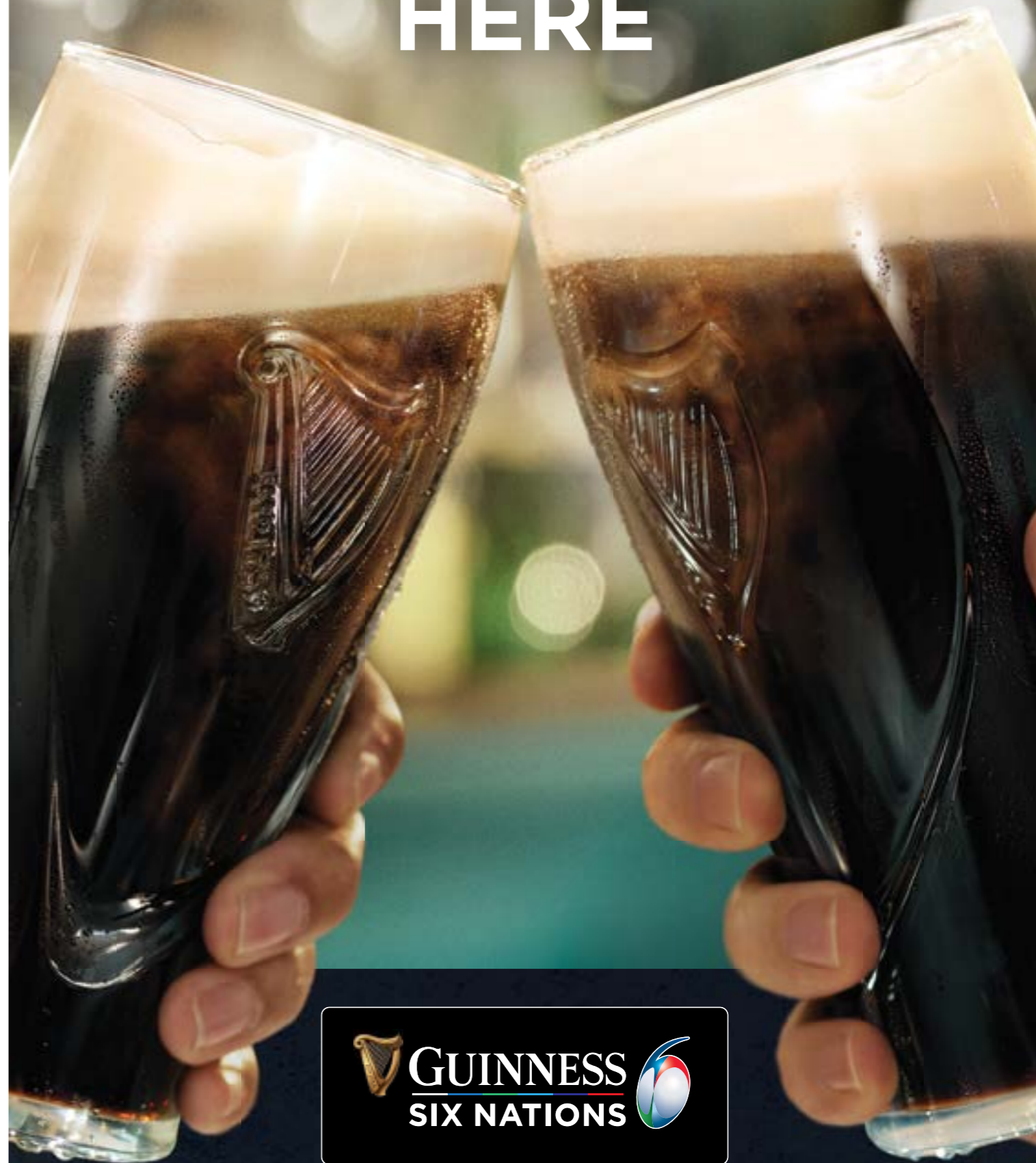
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Part 3 of The Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and The Fire Safety Regulations (Northern

Ireland) 2010 came into effect on 15th November 2010.

As an appropriate person with control over non-domestic, industrial, commercial, leisure, educational or healthcare premises, this legislation requires that you take responsibility for ensuring your premises reach the required fire safety standard.

It is the policy of NIFRS to pro-actively manage fire safety and to seek a reduction in the number of fires, fire-related deaths and injuries, unwanted fire signals, through the effective and efficient enforcement of all fire safety



legislation for which it has responsibility.

Are you the appointed responsible person for Fire Safety in your club?

If you are, then it's your legal responsibility to ensure a quality fire risk assessment has been performed and any companies hired to carry out required safety works are competent.

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Fergus Thompson, Stadium Facilities Manager, Ulster Rugby.



Questions & Answers



Q. The committee has recently made a disciplinary decision which some members are unhappy with. What, if anything, can the members do to overturn the decision?

A. We can confirm that under the club's present rules, only the committee can make or reverse disciplinary decisions. The members cannot reverse or change a disciplinary decision, even by voting for such a specific change at a general meeting.

Should the members be unhappy with the rules which state that the committee determine disciplinary decisions, they could organise a rule change so that in future disciplinary decisions are taken by the club's members, although it is unclear how this would work in practice (and indeed, how it would affect the present decision which was made under the club's current rules) and if this is a sensible or desirable change. It is however, within the gift of the members to determine the rules

relating to disciplinary matters. Any such rule change would have to follow the normal rule change procedure.

Alternatively, members who have a strong interest in this situation could stand for election to the committee at the next AGM. The club's committee can overturn previous decisions and by being on the committee the interested members will be able to hear all of the arguments which are made when disciplinary decisions are discussed and put forward their points of views. Unless a revised committee is elected that wishes to revise this disciplinary decision, or the club's rules are modified in some way, then this disciplinary decision cannot be directly amended by the members.

Q. We held our AGM and the members declined to approve the accounts, although no specific reason was given, apart from some members wanting more time to review the accounts. We therefore adjourned the meeting in order to seek further advice.

A. Without knowing precise information, it is difficult to provide advice on what the committee needs to do in order for the members to approve the accounts. Would it be possible to speak to some of the members who attended the meeting and try and ascertain the reasons why they did not approve the accounts? If it's only the requirement of additional time to review the accounts, then

the adjournment was the right course of action to take.

I therefore suggest you recommence the AGM and ask the members to once again approve the club's accounts. Hopefully if the members have no questions, and have had a further opportunity to review the accounts, they will approve the accounts.

If the members aren't willing to approve the accounts they should provide a reason so the committee can address their concerns and then once again ask them to approve them.

Q. We're struggling to achieve a quorum at committee meetings. What should we do to solve this problem?

A. If the committee can form a quorate meeting then you

are able to co-opt members to the committee to fill vacant positions. This would solve the problem in the short and medium term. In the longer term, it might be sensible to consider a rule revision to reduce the quorum requirement down to a more manageable figure. The committee can also empower employees and committee members to make specific decisions without recourse to the committee. This means, that even at times when the committee may not be quorate, day-to-day club decisions can still be made by the nominated persons.

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

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Gene Fitzpatrick

A true icon of the Irish comedy circuit



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

Gene Fitzpatrick is a household name in Northern Ireland as a comedian and vocalist, with a string of albums to his name.

Gene was born in the heart of County Down, and was educated at St Coleman's College, Newry.

His working career began with Maxol, in his hometown, where he was to become manager of the company's service stations in Belfast.

Unsurprisingly, customers soon recognised his humour and personality and would tell him jokes which he would store in

his memory, to later rearrange to suit his softly spoken delivery.

Gene was to become a vocalist with 'Five Star Brandy', a popular band on the local music scene, which resulted in creating many pleasant and lasting memories for him.

Gene Fitzpatrick's name as a comedian and vocalist resulted in him being easily recognised as one of the most sought after entertainers in Northern Ireland and beyond, added to by him winning the much coveted Northern Ireland Benson & Hedges Entertainer of the Year award.

It was common to hear his peers joke, saying that Gene has performed everywhere, including venues yet to be built.

Another iconic comedian/vocalist, Barry Brent, recently told me, "Gene Fitzpatrick is always the gent, a terrific performer, and most importantly, a genuine friend. We don't get the opportunity to meet as often as we would like, but when we do it's as if

we had never parted. Gene has had an abundance of TV and Radio appearances, and I have enjoyed his company on my shows at Belfast 89FM, at least once each year. A wonderful gentleman and friend, always the same response on meeting him, "Are you well Gene? To which he replies, "Better than well!"

He is the master of reinvention, keeping him on top of his league.

Now a popular figure on the after dinner corporate circuit and on cruise ships, he has appeared with one of his heroes, Charlie Pride, and shared the stage with Chris de Burgh and Tony Christie, to name but a few global performers.

Added to his busy itinerary has been work in the USA, Canada, and on Irish American Cruises each year, which will see him head off in February 2020 to an all star performance with Daniel O'Donnell on the Mexican Riviera.

Gene prides himself in being fit, starting each day with a five mile walk; he also swims and plays golf as often as possible. He



Northern Ireland's King of comedy, Gene Fitzpatrick.

admits to adoring Indian food, and loves Ulster and Irish rugby.

And as a keen golfer, he enjoyed delivering his clean Northern humour at the Royal County Down Golf Club when they hosted the Open Championship.

Gene has been married to his wife Maureen for 54 years, and is extremely proud of his two sons Nicholas and Richard, and grandchildren, Olivia 9 and Erin age 7.

Gene's a real trooper, who I hope goes on for a very long time, and a man I feel much better for knowing.

Wishing you only the best Gene.

Nigel

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing!



The big band sound has never been far away, but due in part to artistes such as Michael Bublé etc, it has really brought it back to the fore.

Federation Secretary, Harry Beckinsale, was pleased to meet an old friend recently, who told him about an exciting big band he is involved with.

Gil Irvine, a devotee of Van Morrison, who has been established on the local music scene for some years, exuded excitement at this new venture.

We wish Gil, who is also involved with the Friendship Band, well in this musical journey.

If there ever comes a time when you're In the Mood to Come Fly With Me on a Sentimental Journey to some Tuxedo Junction where you can Sway with the Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy from Company B who came all the way from Brazil, then yes, you've guessed it, the big band sound is back in vogue, with the C.S.B. Swing Band leading the way.

From the heart of Co. Tyrone, what started off as a small town

silver band, they've transformed themselves into a swing band, by introducing saxophones, guitars and a singer.

They developed their program from marches and traditional airs to the classic sounds of the forties, engaging the Big Band jazz styles of Glenn Miller, The Dorsey Brothers, Benny Goodman, Count Basie and many others. In saying that, they have not ignored more recent favourites like Brown Eyed Girl, Sweet Caroline, Y.M.C.A. and Cracklin' Rosie.

Recently the 20 plus band wowed a packed audience in Rockmount Golf Club, and have helped to raise money on behalf of local charities in various other venues, but 2020 promises to be a big year for the C.S.B. Swing band as they display their talents throughout the land playing at festivals and corporate functions, for in the hurly burly of today's music scene it is refreshing to hear a big band playing live music.

So if you decide on Taking the 'A' Train wearing a String of Pearls don't forget to say Hello Dolly because That's Life!

WKD 'Dark Fruit'

Applying a WKD twist to a trend which has had something of a transformational effect on modern drinking, brand owner SHS Drinks is to launch WKD Dark Fruit.

Available in early spring, this permanent addition to the WKD range harnesses the power of the easily understood 'dark fruit' concept and delivers it to a RTD audience. The new variant will build on what was a successful 2019 for the WKD brand, with the on-trade volume growth rate building throughout the year and reaching double-digit levels.

Aligned to existing brand variants in terms of ABV, pricing, and bottle size (i.e. 4% ABV, 275ml), WKD Dark Fruit will generate further

momentum for the UK's No.1 RTD, growing the category and building incremental sales for outlets.

Rolling out across all trade channels, WKD Dark Fruit will be supported by a comprehensive, brand-wide package comprising in-venue media, back-bar displays, POS kits, social media engagement and digital advertising. All facets will embrace suitably WKD tongue-in-cheek messaging.



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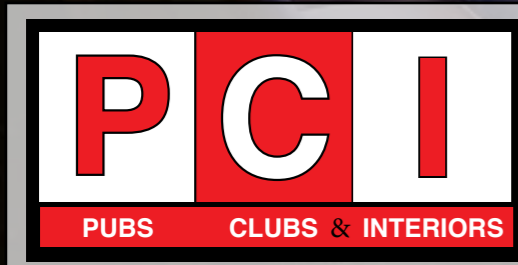
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Their highly skilled team deliver the highest quality refurbishment service and meeting their customers' needs is always their top priority.

Taking the brave decision to create something new can provide many benefits for your club, not least of which is the creation of a modern and

fresh environment to cater for existing members, but to also create surroundings which will attract new members and guests too.

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Molson Coors is right on track with support of Down Royal Racecourse

Down Royal has secured a new three year partnership with one of the world's largest brewers, Molson Coors Beverage Company.

The agreement sees Molson Coors become the racecourse's exclusive draft and pre-packaged beer and cider pouring partner throughout its 12-fixture annual race calendar.

This is not the brewer's first foray into the world of horse racing as Carling - the UK's number one selling lager - has 16 UK and Ireland racecourse partnerships to its name and is an official partner of The Jockey Club in the UK.

The new partnership with Down Royal includes naming rights for race meetings on 28th January and 24th July and sees direct promotional and marketing support of the Molson Coors beer portfolio, including Carling and Coors Light, Northern Ireland's number one bottled beer brand.

Down Royal Chief Executive, Emma Meehan said: "We are thrilled to partner with such a distinguished brewer as Molson Coors and are excited to grow the relationship both on and off the track.

"The Molson Coors brand is steeped in history and shares our passion for great quality, superb hospitality and excellent service. We are always looking to work with local brands who share our commitment to developing authentic and elevated experiences for racegoers.

"Through this new partnership we hope to enhance the race-going experience and give people an extra reason to visit Down Royal and to keep coming back."

Jordana Busby, Customer Director NI at Molson Coors, said: "We are very excited about this new partnership with Down Royal which gives us a perfect platform to showcase our award-winning premium beer and cider portfolio, and to engage with the thousands of avid racegoers who attend the racecourse throughout the year.

"At Molson Coors we are passionate about making great beer and have the commitment and capability to grow Down Royal's business through best-in-class brand, category and service solutions.

"We're investing heavily in the technical infrastructure and quality of pour at Down Royal, installing new fast pour units and creating designated speed serve lanes which will enable customers to be served really quickly and therefore not miss any of the racing.

"We look forward to exciting racegoers about our favourite trusted brands and encouraging them to explore different products and flavours."

For further information on upcoming race meetings at Down Royal visit www.downroyal.com/fixtures-tickets/



The new partnership with Down Royal includes naming rights for race meetings on 28th January and 24th July and sees direct promotional and marketing support of the Molson Coors beer portfolio, including Carling and Coors Light, Northern Ireland's number one bottled beer brand.

Pictured marking the start of the new Down Royal and Molson Coors relationship is (l-r) Emma Meehan, Chief Executive of Down Royal Racecourse, with Jordana Busby, Customer Director NI, Molson Coors.



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WALES v FRANCE
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Live on BBC

LEICESTER v MAN CITY
Sat 22 Feb, 5.30pm
Live on [sky sports](#)

ENGLAND v IRELAND
Sat 23 Feb, 3pm
Live on UTV

ARSENAL v EVERTON
Sun 23 Feb, 4.30pm
Live on [sky sports](#)

7 - 8 MARCH

IRELAND v ITALY
Sat 7 Mar, 2.15pm
Live on UTV

ENGLAND v WALES
Sat 7 Mar, 4.45pm
Live on UTV

BURNLEY v SPURS
Sat 7 March, 5.30pm
Live on [sky sports](#)

CHELSEA v EVERTON
Sun 8 Mar, 2pm
Live on [sky sports](#)

SCOTLAND v FRANCE
Sun 8 Mar, 3pm
Live on BBC

MAN UTD v MAN CITY
Sun 8 Mar, 4.30pm
Live on [sky sports](#)

14 - 15 MARCH

WALES v SCOTLAND
Sat 14 Mar, 2.15pm
Live on BBC

ITALY v WALES
Sat 14 Mar, 4.45pm
Live on UTV

ASTON VILLA v CHELSEA
Sat 14 Mar, 5.30pm
Live on [sky sports](#)

FRANCE v IRELAND
Sat 14 Mar, 8pm
Live on BBC

WEST HAM v WOLVES
Sun 15 Mar, 2pm
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SPURS v MAN UTD
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Hit the fairways at Carton House golf course to support children with cancer and their families

Children's cancer charity, Cancer Fund for Children, are inviting you to join them at their inaugural Daisy Golf Classic on Friday 19th June 2020 at the exclusive O'Meara Golf Course - Carton House, Co. Kildare and help make a difference to children diagnosed with cancer and their families.

Home to two championship courses, Carton House Golf offers exquisite views, impeccably maintained fairways, a convenient location and an exceptional golfing experience.

The format for the charity golf day includes breakfast on arrival from 11am, access to practice

areas, a Shotgun start at 1pm, 18 holes of golf followed by a Carriage House Supper, with some fantastic prizes up for grabs.

The cost to enter a four ball is £700. Carton House are also offering discounted Daisy Accommodation rates if you would like to make a weekend of it. Sponsorship opportunities are available for local businesses to support the event.

Cancer Fund for Children provides practical and emotional support to children diagnosed with cancer and their families, including the opportunity to have a therapeutic short break at their therapeutic centre

Daisy Lodge, in Newcastle, Co. Down.

Speaking about the Daisy Golf Classic, Belinda Kearns, Relationship Manager said, "By taking part in this exclusive golf event you will help make sure that families coming to terms with the devastating impact of childhood cancer diagnosis receive the vital support they need."

To book a Four Ball today or enquire about sponsorship



opportunities - contact Belinda Kearns on 028 9080 5599 or email belinda@cancerfundforchildren.com



John's on the ball for Cancer Focus NI



International rugby player, John Cooney, has taken time out from his hectic schedule to urge everyone to lace up their trainers and get running for Cancer Focus Northern Ireland.

Cancer Focus NI is the sole official charity partner of the Deep River Rock Belfast City Marathon for 2020 and 2021 - and John is encouraging people to sign up and support the charity's vital work.

He said, "I'm delighted to come on board as an ambassador for Cancer Focus NI. Cancer affects so many lives and I've witnessed the impact it can have on families. I'm so proud to be able to back this wonderful charity that supports people when they need it most."

Roisin Foster, Chief Executive of Cancer Focus NI, said, "Cancer Focus NI is delighted to have been chosen as the sole

charity partner for the next two years for the Belfast marathon. All the money raised will stay in Northern Ireland and will help fund a pioneering new research project at Queen's University Belfast, looking at the treatment of oesophageal and pancreatic cancers - two cancers which at present have very low survival rates.

"We're calling all runners and walkers to #MakeItCount and raise funds for Cancer Focus NI to help more people survive."

If you have any concerns about cancer call the Cancer Focus NI free support and information Nurse Line on 0800 783 3339

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The Daisy Golf Classic

O'Meara Course - Carton House, Co. Kildare
Friday 19th June 2020

Timings:
Shotgun Start 1pm -
Registration from 11am

Sponsorship:
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Cost:
£700 (€800) per Four Ball
(incl: Breakfast Bap,
18 holes of Golf, fabulous
prizes, and The Carriage
House Supper)

Accommodation:
Special Daisy Classic
Carton House rates.

Additional Guests:
£90 (€100), to include The
Carriage House Supper,
Post-Golf at 6pm



NI Charity Commission Number NIC100532.
Registered charity in Ireland (20142681).
CHY 21682.

For more information contact Belinda Kearns:
T: 028 9080 5599 E: belinda@cancerfundforchildren.com

UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winner

by Tony McGee



Darryl Branagan in action.

With Kilcoo losing to Carofin in the All-Ireland Senior Football Club Championship final last month, their thrilling win over Glenties in the Ulster final may well be forgotten, but that shouldn't be the case. Certainly, the performance of tenacious left-half back Darryl Branagan is very worthy of recall.

That is what the Ulster GAA Writers did when selecting their Merit Award winner for last month. The high octane display of Branagan in that provincial decider was one of the main differences between the teams and the defining feature in winning the title for Kilcoo.

Darryl's leadership in tight situations and his promptings, by example, of his colleagues played a major part in winning

the silverware, at last, after many previous tries for the Magpies. With the Number 7 on his back, Branagan was all over the place helping out, defending and setting up attacks.

"I am very happy to receive such an honour as the Monthly Merit Award and for such an important game," enthused Darryl when notified of being selected for the award. "I feel that it is a fantastic achievement and I regard it as a Merit Award for the whole team but it is nice that I am getting it."

He will receive the trophy at the UGAAWA final annual dinner in the Great Northern Hotel Bundoran next month and will go into the record books as the last UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winner.

NIFWA Monthly Award winners



NIFWA Chairman, Stuart McKinley, presents Crusaders manager, Stephen Baxter, with the Belleek trophy for January Manager of the Month



Crusaders centre-back, Billy Joe Burns, pictured with Stephen upon receiving his Belleek trophy for January Player of the Month.



Harland & Wolff Welders striker, Matthew Ferguson, receiving his Belleek trophy for January's Championship Player of the Month.

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More sports action on the way from Sky

Sky Sports presents another action-packed month for venues with live Premier League clashes; the Carabao Cup final; the start of the Formula 1 season and much more - plenty to keep your customers entertained!

We spring into March with the first major trophy of the season up for grabs as Manchester City face Aston Villa in the Carabao Cup final, live on Sky Sports.

The Premier League action continues with Sky Sports bringing the biggest names and the biggest games from a fascinating season. There's an exciting line-up including Everton v Manchester United; Manchester City v Arsenal and Liverpool v Crystal Palace. The Championship promotion race is also heating up and Sky Sports venues will be able to show all the twists and turns throughout the month.

The end of March sees the last chance for 16 nations to book a ticket to the 2020 European Championships, but only four will qualify. If both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland win their semi-final games against Slovakia and Bosnia & Herzegovina

respectively, the two nations will compete in an all-Irish final in the summer. Venues can be sure to keep their customers entertained with the play-off semi-finals and final action live on Sky Sports.

And it's not just football...

Commonly referred to as the 'fifth Major', The Players Championship will take place on the 12th to 15th March and be shown exclusively live on Sky's dedicated channel, Sky Sports Golf. The tournament is one of the most prestigious events of the year, and it will be tough competition as Rory McIlroy will want to lift the trophy after last year's win, while Tiger Woods will be chasing a third victory for this event.

Formula 1 celebrates its 70th anniversary season with the start of a record-breaking 22-race competition - that's more races than last year plus two new circuits. The season gets underway in Melbourne for the Australian Grand Prix, where champion Lewis Hamilton will look to begin his seventh successful championship campaign. Clubs can keep up to date with every race weekend exclusively live on Sky Sports.



Picture courtesy of Getty Images.

In cricket, England's world championship team play two Test matches against Sri Lanka. The last time the two nations met was in the Cricket World Cup, where Sri Lanka beat the hosts and eventual winners by 20 runs. However, Joe Root's

team have proven to be up to any challenge and are always capable of putting on an exciting show.

An exciting month of sport is ahead of us and these are the fixtures not to be missed;



FEBRUARY

- 15th February Norwich City v Liverpool
NBA - All Star Saturday
- 16th February Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur
- 17th February Chelsea v Manchester United
- 22nd February Leicester City v Man City
- 23rd February Arsenal v Everton

MARCH

- 1st March Manchester City v Arsenal
Everton v Manchester United
Carabao Cup final - Manchester City v Aston Villa
- 12th to 15th March PGA Tour Golf - The Players Championship
- 15th March F1 Australia
- 19th to 23rd March England Cricket 1st Test - England v Sri Lanka
- 23rd March F1 Bahrain
- 26th March European Qualifier Semi-Final - Bosnia v Northern Ireland
European Qualifier Semi-Final - Slovakia v ROI
- 27th to 31st March England Cricket 2nd Test - England v Sri Lanka

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