

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

# Review Club

VOLUME 36 - Issue 1, 2023

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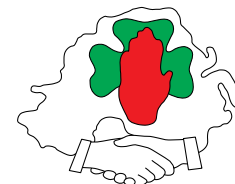
# The Federation Invite New Members to Join

Start 2023 off on the right foot and join the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs today. Benefit from expert support and advice on a range of topics related specifically to the day-to-day running of your club. Issues such as ever changing employment legislation, the 1996 Clubs Order, accountancy regulations, and rates relief, are only a small sample of the topics we can provide guidance on - **guidance that will cost you less than £1 per week!**

Our helplines are always a welcome source of information and prove beneficial to members.

07889 800329 - 07889 800331 - 07889 800325 & 07889 681714

## N.I. Federation of Clubs Membership Application Form



Name of club: .....

Address: .....

Telephone No: .....

Fax No: .....

### Club Officers

Chairman: .....

Tel: .....

Secretary: .....

Tel: .....

Treasurer: .....

Tel: .....

The annual membership fee is £50.00 payable to:

### The Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs

c/o Unit B7 Portview Trade Centre,  
310 Newtownards Road,  
Belfast BT4 1HE.

For telephone queries call:  
**07889 681714**

*(Please include your membership fee or completed standing order form with your application)*

### For administration purposes only

Accepted by: ..... Secretary

Seconded by: ..... Chairman

Date: .....

## STANDING ORDER TO N.I. FEDERATION OF CLUBS

This is to authorise the transfer of £50.00 from the club's account:-

A/C No: .....

Sort Code: .....

Bank: .....

To account no: 627 998 63

Sort code: 95-01-45

**Danske Bank  
Belfast BT1 6JS**

The payment is for the annual membership fee to the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs. The transaction to be effected now and continue annually in January of each year until further notice.

Club Name: .....

Address: .....

Authorised by: (1) .....

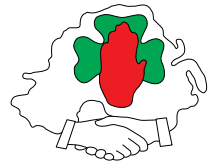
(2) .....

### Please sign and return to:

N.I. Federation of Clubs,  
c/o Unit B7, Portview Trade Centre,  
310 Newtownards Road,  
Belfast BT4 1HE.

## A new year with challenges ahead

### A message from your Chairman & Secretary



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



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

At the beginning of 2023, the registered club sector continues to face challenges, including changes in consumer behaviour and economic uncertainty.

However, there have also been positive developments, such as the increasing popularity of digital platforms and the introduction of new technologies together of course with the introduction of amendments to the Legislation pertaining to the registered club sector.

To remain competitive, clubs will need to adapt to these changes by investing in modern infrastructure, improving the customer experience, and exploring new revenue streams.

Additionally, clubs must ensure that they are fully compliant with all relevant regulations, such as health and safety requirements and data protection laws.

The Federation plays a crucial role in supporting clubs through these challenges by continuing to provide guidance.

Reaching out to the Federation through the Helplines continues to prove of great benefit to clubs. The Helplines provide clubs with access to expert advice and support on a range of important issues, from legal and regulatory compliance to best practices for attracting and retaining customers.

The Federation Helplines are a testament to the commitment of the Federation in supporting the registered club sector and promoting its success. By utilising these resources, clubs can stay informed and stay ahead of the curve, even in the face of changing circumstances and challenges.

Overall, the Federation Helplines are a valuable resource for the registered club

sector, and we encourage all clubs to take advantage of this service. Whether you are facing a specific challenge or simply looking for advice on how to improve your operations, the Federation Helplines are here to help.

We would also mention the present energy crisis and its impact on the registered club sector through increased energy costs, which pose significant challenges for clubs.

To mitigate the impact of the energy crisis, clubs must focus on energy efficiency by reducing their energy consumption to help ensure their long-term viability and success.

You can read on page 8 the latest information on energy matters from our approved consultant, Mark Rooney of MJ Utilities. Mark is well placed to ensure your club is getting the best deal available from the numerous energy providers operating throughout the country.

You can call Mark for guidance, or a free no obligation review, by calling 077 7699 4807, or if easier, email [mark@mjutilities.com](mailto:mark@mjutilities.com)

Only working together will help to ensure the long-term sustainability of the registered club sector and its continued success.



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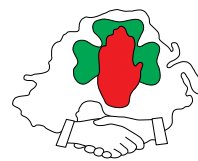
**07763 835449 (North West)**

**E-mail: [info@nifederationofclubs.com](mailto:info@nifederationofclubs.com)**





## Minutes of the Executive Meeting



Hosted by the H&W Welders FSC, Belfast,  
on Wednesday 1st February 2023

A full attendance was recorded, with a number of items being discussed, including the renewal of registrations. There is concern that placing advertising in two publications, one of which has to be a national publication, such as the Newsletter or Belfast Telegraph, is being required. Whilst in general it may be acceptable for one newspaper to be utilised when applying for an entertainments license, the two required for a renewal of registration will remain unchanged until the matter passes through the Legislative Assembly. The main objection/concern is the unacceptable cost of placing the said advertisements in two

newspapers, which can vary, and often cost upwards of £1k, which seems outrageous, given that newspapers are viewed as being an ever declining news medium.

Club secretaries are reminded that they should contact their respective legal representative to confirm that their club registration renewal has met the deadline.

The matter of the Federation AGM was discussed in some detail, with a potential agenda being discussed. At past meetings we were engaged in pursuing the well documented amendments to the Registration of Clubs Order and Accounts Regulations. Thankfully, we secured the vast majority of what

we wished for, with only Item 5 remaining for introduction in April 2023. Amendment 5 will focus on drinks promotions, which will only affect the licensed trade, whereas we are registered clubs, which fall outside this requirement; that is unless a further amendment is introduced at a later date to bring registered clubs under the same regulations.

A Labour Relations conference, being held in Belfast on 23rd February 2023 at Titanic Belfast, will see the Federation represented by the Secretary Harry Beckinsale and his assistant Gerry Gallagher, who may be joined by Executive

member Joe Patterson, who was engaged in the field of employment legislation and tribunal service during much of his working life.

Renewal of Federation membership was discussed, with the Federation again retaining the annual fee of only £50.

The Treasurer presented a financial report, which was passed as a true record of the Federation's present financial standing.

This concluded the meeting with H&W Welders FSC being thanked for the use of their facilities and the hospitality provided following the meeting.

*H. Beckinsale, Secretary*

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Drew Pritchard, Sales/Service Manager - Mobile: 07917 641781  
Email: sales@oasisrs.com - Website: www.oasisrs.com





# Can your club afford not to be in the Federation?

Joining the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs is a smart move for any private member club. The benefits of being a part of our organisation are numerous and can greatly impact the success of your club, no matter what type of club you run, be it football, rugby, GAA, or cricket, to name only a few.

One of the key benefits of the Federation is access to expert support and advice on a range of topics specifically related to the day-to-day running of a club. Issues such as employment legislation, the 1996 Clubs Order, accountancy regulations, and rates relief can be complex, but with the help of the Federation, club committees can avail of accurate and up-to-date information on these topics.

Additionally, clubs receive copies of Club Review delivered directly to their club eight times per year. Club Review is packed full of useful information to help you run your club efficiently and within the rules in force at any given time.

Member clubs will also have round-the-clock access to the



Federation Helplines, ensuring that support is always available when needed most.

**The helpline numbers are 07889 800329, 07889 800331, 07889 800325, and 07889 681714.**

Another advantage of being a member of the Federation is the low cost of membership. At only £50 per year (less than £1 per week), becoming a member is a cost-effective

investment in the success of your club. Members also receive preferential costs for their Sky Sports TV package, making it even easier for clubs to provide top-notch entertainment for their members and guests. It's a proven fact that top sports events increase footfall, which in turn leads to increased bar sales.

In conclusion, joining the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs is a decision that any club should seriously consider.

With its focus on providing expert support and advice, its 24/7 Helplines, its affordable membership fee, and the added bonus of preferential costs for Sky Sports TV packages, the benefits of being a part of the Federation are numerous and can greatly impact the success of your club.

**So why not join the Federation today and take your club to the next level!**  
[www.nifederationofclubs.com](http://www.nifederationofclubs.com)

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T: 028 9030 9550 • F: 028 9060 1445  
Email: [lawrence@oharashearer.com](mailto:lawrence@oharashearer.com)

## MPLC Licensing

Clubs may receive a letter from the Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC), which indicates that they are required to pay for an 'Umbrella Licence'. This is an annual licence from MPLC which allows commercial premises to broadcast copyrighted material such as film DVDs to the public.

MPLC itself represents licence holders such as film studios and television production companies which produce content such as dramas or comedies. If a club showed any of this content then an MPLC licence may need to be obtained.

However, clubs which only show channels, such as Sky Sports, BBC News or a music

channel, are unlikely to be required to obtain an MPLC licence.

If you are unsure of what licence you require, please let us know and we will try to assist.

### Examples of programmes that do and don't require a licence:

- Six Nations - No licence*
- Match of the Day - No licence*
- Euros - No licence*
- World Cup - No licence*
- Sky Sports - No licence*
- BT Sports - No licence*
- Channel 4 News - MPLC Licence*
- Eastenders - MPLC Licence*



## MTD delayed

HMRC has announced that its Making Tax Digital (MTD) plans have been delayed until 2026.

### MTD FAQs:

**Q.** Under MTD for VAT, businesses will have to provide more information than they already do.

**A.** This is not correct: no business will need to provide information to HMRC more regularly than they do now, nor send any extra information.

**Q.** Businesses above the VAT threshold can choose not to join MTD for VAT and continue to submit returns as they always have done.

**A.** This is not correct: From 2026, all VAT-registered businesses will be required to use MTD for VAT no matter what they earn.

**Q.** Eventually you will not be able to use spreadsheets or bridging software under MTD.

**A.** This is not correct: businesses can choose to use spreadsheets to both maintain digital records and perform tax calculations, provided the spreadsheets combine with some form of 'bridging' software that will allow their VAT return data to be sent to HMRC from the spreadsheet.

However, users will get the maximum benefits from MTD - fewer errors, increased productivity and better financial planning by using dedicated MTD software which provides an efficient end-to-end experience with a return submitted to HMRC at the touch of a button.



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# Score a try with your customers during the Six Nations

The six nations has well and truly kicked off!

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# Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS)

Since its rollout last year, the EBRS has prompted many queries and questions...

- Why am I not receiving any discount?
- Why am I not receiving more discount?
- How come I get discount some months and not others?
- What happens when the scheme ends in March?
- I've heard there is a new scheme beginning in April. How does that work?

For the past few months now, we have been inundated with questions and queries from clients regarding the scheme and the discounts, or lack of, being reflected on their energy bills.

Last year, many were under the assumption that the scheme

## ICE Futures Europe UK NBP Natural Gas Futures



and associated discounts would be relayed 'equally' to all businesses. This, however, is most definitely not the case. Discounts applied are dependant on a number of factors; your supplier, if you are in or out of contract and which contract type for example.

At the end of March, the current EBRS will be replaced by the EBDS (Energy Bills Discount Scheme) commencing on the 1st April and will run for a 12-month period.


A discount will be applied to the unit price of gas and electricity for 12 months from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. Customers who have a contract with a licensed energy supplier will see a unit discount of up to £6.97 per MWh [Megawatt hour] automatically applied to their gas bill and a unit discount of up to £19.61 per MWh automatically applied to their electricity bill. In a nutshell, a typical SME business will receive a maximum of 1.9p discount off their kWh rate.

All in all, the new scheme will make minimal difference to an average unit price, however, on the 'plus' side, wholesale energy prices have come down over recent weeks and we are currently seeing some of the best/cheapest prices we have seen in a long time. This being the case, there has probably been no better time in the last year or so to carry out a review of your gas and electric costs and perhaps lock in something now.

If you would like a review of your energy costs or have any questions or queries regarding the current or new discount schemes, please get in touch.

E: [mark@mjutilities.com](mailto:mark@mjutilities.com)  
T: 0777 699 4807

## Reduce Your Club's Electric & Gas Bills



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# 2023 insurance trends

From slips and trips through to burglary and flooding, there's always a claim occurring within the club sector. And as we progress through the new year, we don't think this is going to change any time soon - but that's okay, because that's exactly what insurance is there for.

So what are our predictions as we head into 2023?

• **Clubs will continue to prioritise risk management.**

You can't prevent everything. But you can give it a good go. By regularly assessing your risks and working out how you can minimise the chances of accidents and incidents, you could save your club needing to make a claim.

• **And claims defensibility will be a big thing.** Should an accident or incident occur,

clubs will rely on evidence and documentation to defend a claim. For example, our data shows it takes an average of 76 days for a public liability claim to come in. Yet many CCTV systems record over footage after 60 days (if not sooner).

Knowing how to download and securely store footage of accidents and incidents at your club will help you to defend a claim should it arise. This is just one small example of the importance of keeping documentation and knowing what regulations your club needs to meet. A risk management expert can help you with this.

• **Clubs will be vigilant all year round.** Our stats show there are no spikes in the number of Public Liability claims made at any point throughout the year.

You might think you should be extra vigilant around winter when it comes to slips and trips, but that isn't necessarily the case.

Therefore, clubs should be aiming to mitigate risk all year round. For example, don't leave it until the winter arrives to check your guttering - this should be done at least every six months.

• **We'll begin preparing for "new" risks.** Terror attacks have been a big problem for a long time, but Terrorism Insurance cover is growing in prominence to protect businesses just like your club from damage that occurs due to a terror attack.

This isn't just physical cover - if your club can't trade or you experience loss of revenue as a result of a nearby attack, you'll be covered financially.

• **Cyber attacks will rise.** You might think your club won't be a target, but you'd be surprised. Clubs can often be a target due to being run by part-time volunteers, who won't necessarily understand how to recognise and combat cyber-crime. Sensitive data could be compromised, and the cost of a cyber attack could run into the tens of thousands.

Over the coming years, Cyber Insurance will become particularly important, ready to protect your club should an attack happen.

Make sure you're covered for all the 'what ifs' this year. If you're in any doubt, contact the N.I. Federation of Club's Approved Supplier, Rollins Insurance on 028 9042 9800, for a confidential review to ensure your club is fully covered.

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## Do you have clear policies in place?



*Do you offer any overtime or provide any allowances for working on call? If so, do you have a clear policy in place on what an employee would be entitled to? When the entitlement to the payment would begin?*

If you have answered no to the last two questions then I recommend its something you do look to put in place. Having clear set out policies allows for you and your staff to understand the terms of how things, such as overtime, works and comes into practice.

Two cases issued at the end of 2022 demonstrate the importance of policy and practices within the workplace.

### **Mullin & Leake v Department for Infrastructure**

In this case, the employees took a claim for unlawful deduction of wages in relation to overtime rates. They were both successful in applying for Emergency Response Controllers, which included additional payments for making themselves available outside of working hours. The purpose being “on-call” where they would receive calls regarding out-of-hours road issues such as flooding or obstruction and the employees would be required to contact other bodies to remedy the situation. Both employees argued that they should have received overtime rates for working on call rather than the flat rate allowance which was paid.

The Overtime Pay Policy stated:

“When you are unexpectedly called into work outside normal hours... 3 hour credit should be counted towards overtime, even though the work may have taken less than three hours. This applies whether or not on-call/standby/availability allowance is payable.”

The tribunal found that the claim was unable to provide enough to support it was an unlawful deduction of wages simply based on the fact the role fell outside the scope of the overtime policy. It was argued that on-call was considered as “expected” work, whereas the overtime policy was only in place for unexpected situations the employees found themselves in.

### **McElmurray v Western Urgent Care Ltd**

In this case the employer provided an out-of-hours service for urgent medical care. It was found after an investigation process, due to four members of staff being off sick due to stress in April 2019, that the on-call shifts were not working and found it difficult to contact some staff when they were supposed to be on call. The company went through a process to change working practices around shifts and create a post for this work to allow for consistency which led to the removal of the on-call rota. Some employees raised concern that this was a redundancy situation which the company refuted as the changes to on call were not considered a contractual change, however, as a good will gesture, paid the affected staff £566 for compensation.

The employee raised a claim for unlawful deduction of wages and a breach of contract for removing the on-call system. The



tribunal dismissed the employees claims as they found there was no evidence to suggest that the on-call role was any more than an allowance. There was no mention of on call in the contracts of employment or any amendment to the contract provided and therefore did not result in a breach of contract.

### **Why these two cases?**

Both cases demonstrate the importance of having clear, well drafted policies, which set out what may constitute as overtime, when overtime rates would begin and also have a detailed policy regarding on call. Although the second case didn't have a policy in place to suggest it is contractual, it is important to have something in writing that sets out clear rules of on call and noting it can be changed or removed at anytime. This could avoid tribunal situations.

If you need support drafting policies and procedures, you can contact the HR Consultancy Service at Lockton Companies LLP, using either of the numbers below.

### **Contact us**



**Ronnie McCullough**  
HR Consultancy Team Manager  
T: +44 (0)289 024 8989  
M: +44 (0)7810 592 240  
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# Take your club's interior to the next level with Trans4mation Upholstery

Advertorial

Under the stewardship of Mark O'Neill, North Down based company Trans4mation Upholstery is dedicated to provide top-notch upholstery services to clubs and other hospitality venues in Northern Ireland.

With Mark's many years of experience, he has the expertise needed to turn your vision into reality. Whether you're looking to add a touch of sophistication to your club, or simply want to update your furniture, Trans4mation Upholstery has the solution you need.

Mark understands the importance of creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for your members which is why he specialises in transforming furniture into pieces that are not only functional but also stylish and eye-catching. A highly skilled professional, Mark uses only quality materials and techniques to ensure that each project is completed to the highest standard.

Trans4mation Upholstery have already made a name for themselves in the club sector, recently transforming the chairs at the Meadowbank Club and Kosy Social Club with exceptional embroidery work, leaving the members of both clubs in awe of the attention to detail and quality of the finished products.

**Just imagine what Trans4mation Upholstery could do for your club!**

Trans4mation Upholstery can provide a custom touch that

will leave your members feeling pampered and appreciated.

In addition to their exceptional embroidery work, a wide range of upholstery services is also on offer to you, from restoring old, worn-out furniture to customising new pieces. There is a large selection of quality fabrics to choose from, allowing you to create a look that is unique to your club.

Whether you're looking to add some colour, patterns, or texture, Trans4mation Upholstery has got you covered.

Customer satisfaction is Mark's top priority. He will work closely with you to understand your vision and ensure that every detail is executed to your specifications. He takes pride in his work and strives to exceed your expectations with every project undertaken.

Don't settle for ordinary furniture. Let Trans4mation Upholstery help you create a stylish, comfortable, and welcoming environment for your members. Contact them today to schedule a consultation and receive a free estimate.

**Let Trans4mation Upholstery transform your club, transform your experience!**

**Invest in your club's aesthetic and comfort, invest in Trans4mation Upholstery.**

Mark looks forward to working with you and bringing your vision to life.

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**CHELSEA  
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## Registration of private members' clubs

Below is all the information needed in order to register a new club. If you have any queries and require guidance, feel free to call the Federation Helplines at any time.

### How to apply

You can obtain a grant of registration from the County Court. You can only register your club if the business and other affairs are conducted by an elected committee of a secretary, treasurer and at least five ordinary members.

Your club must meet the qualifying criteria for registration to be granted.

You must hold yearly elections to decide committee members and display names and

addresses of any persons who wish to be elected as ordinary members at least 1 week before the election. All members of the club must have a vote in the election process.

The committee must also hold regular meetings on the running of the club.

You must not allow people to become honorary members of the club unless they have specific qualifications.

There must be a defined annual subscription payable by members, and you must keep an alphabetical list of the names and addresses of every member of the club.

Before you can apply for



# HM Revenue & Customs

registration, the secretary must serve notice of your intention on the chief clerk of the court where you will make your application. This must be done at least 1 year before the application is made. The secretary must also send a copy of the notice to the local police sub-divisional commander and your district council.

Between 4 and 8 weeks before the application is made, the secretary must advertise the application in at least 2 newspapers in the area. 4 weeks before the application is made, serve notice of the application again to the chief clerk, sub-divisional commander and district council as before. You must also display the notice outside your premises at this time.

There will be a hearing in the County Court to determine the outcome of your application. The court may request further information to inform their decision, and will consider representations made by other parties.

### Conditions

Your application will only be accepted if you meet all of the following criteria:

- you have adhered to the registration process
- your club meets the qualifying criteria above
- the premises are considered suitable and proper
- the club's rules are satisfactory and observed

- the club is conducted in good faith for at least 1 year
- none of the officials have unspent convictions

The court must be satisfied that there are not sufficient clubs of a similar character in the vicinity of the applicant club.

If you are applying for a nightworkers club, you must be able to show that the members of the club require these opening hours, and that guests are not allowed to enter between the hours of midnight and 10am each day.

If your application is successful, you will be issued with a certificate of registration. Details will also be entered on the register of clubs.

Your certificate lasts for 5 years or until the end of the current registration period, whichever is the sooner.

You must meet obligations relating to:

- opening hours
- club and members' conduct
- inspections and rights of entry by police

### Renewal

You must follow the process as for a new registration, although you do not need to notify the court 1 year in advance. The renewal date for registration is 1st March of the year your registration is due to expire.

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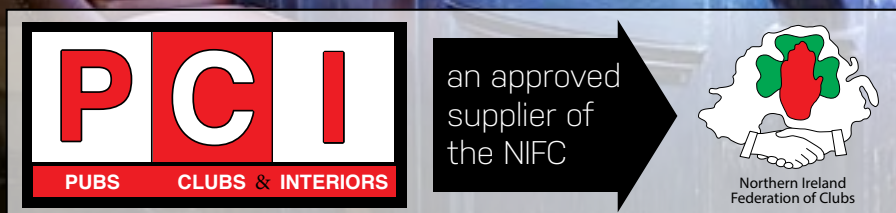
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# Sky Sports – Providing the very best in sport for your members

Whether it's the second half of the domestic football season, the race for the first piece of silverware or the return of Formula 1, Sky Sports has something to keep your members entertained throughout February and beyond.

Arsenal's return to title contention has added a thrilling dynamic to the Premier League season. All eyes will now be on Man City to see if they can push through during the second half of the campaign, and members can catch four Man City games coming up on Sky Sports, as they face Aston Villa, Bournemouth, Crystal Palace and West Ham

Man Utd are also jostling for position in the top four, and members can follow their campaign as they go up against Leeds, Leicester and Brighton. Plus, two of English football's biggest rivalries will be broadcast exclusively live on Sky Sports - Liverpool v Everton on Monday 13th February, and Liverpool v Man Utd on Sunday 5th March - and are sure to spark conversation amongst your members.

Just behind them, Newcastle have broken into the top four, as they attempt to clinch a Champions League spot for the first time, so they're certainly one to watch as they go up against Bournemouth, Liverpool, Wolves and Notts Forest.

Wembley Stadium will play host to Man Utd and Newcastle Utd as they battle for the first major domestic trophy of the season.

The Carabao Cup Final will be shown live on Sky Sports on Sunday 26th February and will keep members gripped as Man Utd seek to end the six year wait for silverware.

Celtic will be featured on Sky Sports more than any other team in the Scottish Premiership between now and April with four fixtures, culminating on Saturday 8th April when customers can show the next instalment in the Old Firm derby.

The Premier League darts offers unmissable weekly action, with 17 nights of darts getting underway on Thursday 2nd February and concluding in London in May. Michael van Gerwen returns as defending champion and world No. 1 Michael Smith features after winning the World Championship, so we can expect a tightly fought competition.

With a record 23-race schedule, including six Sprint weekends, the new F1 season will have fans revved up and ready for action. And Sky Sports is the only place to watch every F1 practice, qualifier, and race live when the season begins in March.

The Sky Sports Racing Pack offers world-class live coverage of the very best horse racing, including every race from February's Ascot Chase meeting live on Sky Sports Racing. While over on the Racing TV channel, members can catch every race from the Cheltenham Festival in March.



Don't forget to promote all these fixtures by using your MySkySports.com account to create posters and social media posts - helping members to plan

ahead and visit your club more, so you can establish yourself as the best place to enjoy live sport.



## A selection of sports fixtures coming soon:

Saturday 18th February	Ascot Chase Meeting
	Newcastle Utd v Liverpool - 5.30pm
Sunday 19th February	Man Utd v Leicester City - 2.00pm
	Spurs v West Ham Utd - 4.30pm
Saturday 25th February	Bournemouth v Man City - 5.30pm
	Crystal Palace v Liverpool - 7.45pm
Sunday 26th February	Spurs v Chelsea - 1.30pm
	Carabao Cup Final: Man Utd v Newcastle Utd - 4.30pm
Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th March	F1 race weekend - Bahrain
Sunday 5th March	Nottingham Forest v Everton - 2.00pm
	Liverpool v Man Utd - 4.30pm
Saturday 11th March	Crystal Palace v Man City - 5.30pm
Sunday 12th March	Fulham v Arsenal - 2.00pm
	Newcastle Utd v Wolves - 4.30pm
Friday 17th March	Nottingham Forest v Newcastle Utd - 8.00pm
Tuesday 14th - Friday 17th March	Cheltenham Festival
Sunday 19th March	Motherwell v Hearts - 12.00pm
	Brighton v Man Utd - 2.00pm
	Man City v West Ham Utd - 4.30pm



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## Celebrating St Patrick's Day

Guinness is offering clubs free downloadable posters and invitations to boost business for St Patrick's Day. With their simple to use tools you can create personalised posters and invitations. Let your guests know about all the exciting parties, sports occasions, events and other activities going on.

Visit: [www.guinnesscelebrate.com/seasonal-and-generic/st-patricks-day](http://www.guinnesscelebrate.com/seasonal-and-generic/st-patricks-day)



## Thriving WKD announces double-date with Love Island

With sales at a ten-year high and now leading the field as the no.1 RTD in both the on-trade and take home, WKD is building on its hugely successful two-year association as the Official Alcohol Partner of Love Island by announcing a deal to expand the collaboration for a further two series in 2023.

Love Island has transcended from TV show to cultural phenomenon and 2023 will mark a step-change in the programme's on-air presence with two separate series of the hit ITV format airing in the same year for the first time ever.

to grow sales for stockists. The tie-in will create further momentum for an already buoyant WKD performance.

Alison Gray, head of brand - WKD at SHS Drinks, says, "To be teaming up with Love Island for a third year is testimony to just how successful the association has been and how well it has gone down with both customers and consumers. As the programme itself so clearly demonstrates, finding the perfect partner is tricky, but when you know, you know - and we believe there's no better match for WKD than Love Island!"



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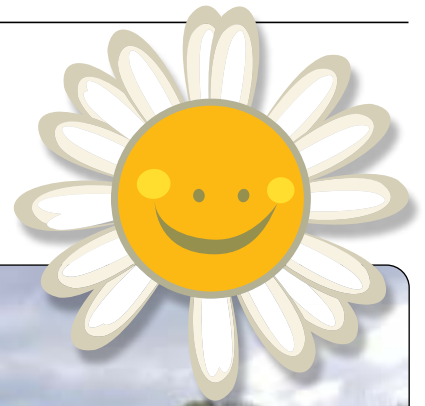
WKD is the Official Alcohol Partner for both Series 9 (January - March) and Series 10 (summer).

The increase in exposure presented by an additional series in the same year offers WKD double the opportunities to amplify its association with the highly popular ITV2 show, double the opportunities to engage with consumers and double the opportunities

"The success of the partnership is a key reason behind WKD's impressive recent performance. Consumers and stockists can look forward to another year of fun, innovative Love Island-related activity from WKD and, with two Love Island series in a year for the first time ever, we're doubly happy and doubly confident that this really is a win, win, win scenario."



# Take on the Belfast Marathon for children impacted by cancer



This April, join Cancer Fund for Children's Daisy Dream Team of dedicated supporters in running the Belfast Marathon to help ensure children and young people don't have to face cancer alone.

Cancer Fund for Children helps empower, connect and strengthen children, young people and families impacted by cancer by providing emotional, social and therapeutic support. This April, our Daisy Dream Team will be taking on the Belfast Marathon to help fund these vital services, and we need your help.

The dream team is made up of family members supported by Cancer Fund for Children, our employees who work directly with young people, and medical professionals who know first hand the effect a cancer diagnosis can have on the whole family. So, whether you want to support us by taking on the full marathon, tackle the relay race or 8 mile walk or even just cheer our team on during the race, all efforts will go such a long way in helping us ensure no child has to face cancer alone.

Our Events and Campaigns Officer Alex Murdock, is urging people to sign up today, "We are so grateful to be supported by such passionate, dedicated



Cancer Fund for Children supporters who took on the Belfast Marathon in 2022.

people who are taking on this mammoth challenge on Sunday 30th April to help us be there for children and young people when they need us most. You can support them by getting involved on race day as well. Just visit our website or call us to find out more."

Join the Daisy Dream Team Today!

Go to:

[www.cancerfundforchildren.com/events](http://www.cancerfundforchildren.com/events)  
or call our team on 028 9080 5599  
to get involved.



Get involved and help us ensure no child has to face cancer alone

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## Stephen Conley shares his life in music with Nigel



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

I hope you all had a good time over the festive season, and I wish you success in all you do in 2023 with good health to enjoy.

I have chosen Stephen Conley as the subject of my feature, a young man extremely talented as a singer and songwriter. A man who has suffered many challenges in his personal life, from which he finds solace in his music.

Stephen grew up in Carnmoney, a small but very proud townland outside of Glengormley. From there he had his primary and secondary education and remained until the age of 23. Stephen told me, "My enthusiasm to music

started at a very early age. I constantly wanted to visit my Grandmother's, where my late uncle (my namesake Stephen) had left behind his guitar before his final move to South Africa, where he sadly passed away following a car accident. Maybe if he had not left the guitar, I might not have chosen music as my passion. That was his first and final gift to me. That moment of seeing his guitar in my Grandmother's closet, it had an old flimsy cover almost guarding it, was wonderful. I still remember my gasp when it was revealed from its case. It looked like heaven, where it was sent from, like that view out of the windscreen from behind the steering wheel on the first night's driving after passing your test. That was the start.

"I first put pen to paper on my thirteenth birthday, just as poetry and one liners; it just started from there. It's something you never quite master, you just evolve as a song writer; you'll never be as good as your last. When I first played the guitar it ignited a fire in me. I first went to Irish traditional lessons as my initial training. Other guitarists would share

their experience, we learned a lot from each other back then. One of them, Adam McGahan, still plays with us as lead guitarist."

Stephen went to Canada for a few years, and on his return met Sharon. They worked in the same bar, actually she was his boss. Stephen said, "She fell off her feet for me! We have a four year old, Cadian, and a fifteen year-old called Grace. I opened a cafe in 2019 called the Foggy Brew. In hindsight it was an impeccable time to open a business. It's a classic Belfast cafe, sadly one of the last. We have a strong following that gets us by. We got the name from an old Irish song/lament. The Foggy Dew, such an important part of our history.

"I got to marry my beautiful wife Sharon on 29th April 2022 - a dream come true. She changed my life in every way imaginable, and still continues to do so. Sadly we lost Sharon to a long cancer battle. I feel her guiding me, pushing me on every day. She truly was a warrior. I feel her with me. I wrote the song 'The One' in early 2022. I recorded it and had the video ready for release just before our wedding in April. I recorded it with Jorge Sloan, from Half Bap Recording, and Danny Mills from Dandan Media. A song wholly for Sharon, to let me convey just what she means to me.

"Our band name is BLOLE. Stephen Conley, guitar/vocals



- Adam McGahan, guitar, mandolin, vocals - Ethan McNally, drums, vocals, and keyboards - Brendan Murray, bass, bodhran.

"I find my music changes over the years. Sometimes I feel it's all for me to vent, and other times for others. I know there are people out there ready for, and waiting to hear, my songs. At times I write songs I think are for other people, as if musically and vocally I wouldn't be able to do them. I feel every experience I've been through fuels new excitement for writing songs which always turns up as two or three songs a month. It's when I get that urge and belief in myself to sit down and write what I'm feeling into a great song. Even if only every month or so, it helps me. After everything, the songs I have with me, I know will be music to someone's ears some day."

After hearing Stephen perform his music live, I believe he has a great future in the music business, and wish him every success.

Nigel.

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## Welders cause major Irish Cup upset

The Irish Cup 6th round saw a number of exciting matches and surprising results, with two standout games in particular.

Championship side Harland & Wolff Welders pulled off a major upset by defeating Premiership outfit Glenavon 1-0, with Oisín Barr returning to Mourneview Park to haunt his former club by scoring the decisive goal in the 55th minute. This result was no more than the Welders deserved, and indeed could have been more, if only Matthew Ferguson and Michael McLellan had shown the same clinical edge in the second-half when they had only goalkeeper Rory Brown to beat.

In another closely contested match, Ballyclare Comrades defeated Institute at the Brandywell by 1-0, with Conall McGrandles scoring the only goal of the game just short of the hour mark with a glancing header beyond keeper Dylan Doherty. This victory is a testament to the Comrades' determination and grit, as they were able to grind out a result against a tough opponent.

The Welder's result demonstrates the unpredictable nature of cup competitions, and the potential for upsets at any stage. The Irish Cup is renowned for its excitement and drama, and this year's 6th round did not disappoint. With the quarter finals not too far away, fans can look forward to more nail-biting matches and possible surprises as the competition heats up.

It's also worth mentioning the incredible talent on display in these matches. From Oisín Barr's clinical finishing to Conall McGrandles'



Former Glenavon player, Oisín Barr, celebrates after scoring, what turned out to be the winning goal.

precise header, the players demonstrated their skill and ability, making for a truly entertaining spectacle.

The quarter finals kick-off on Friday 3rd March when the Welders have the daunting task of playing title contenders Larne, with the match televised live on BBC. The other three

ties are on the following day, which includes the Comrades playing last year's beaten finalists, Ballymena United.

However as said previously, this is cup football and anything can happen on the day.

Indeed, I am reminded of another time Glenavon were

humbled by lower opposition in the Irish Cup. Those of a certain age may remember it well, when, on the 23rd April 1955, Dundela defeated Glenavon 3-0 in the final, with a young Sir William Hastings, who was then club president, photographed with the jubilant winning team below.



The 1954-55 Irish Cup was the 75th edition of Northern Ireland's premier football knock-out cup competition. The trophy was won by junior side Dundela, who pulled off one of the biggest shocks in Irish Cup history by defeating Irish League side Glenavon 3-0 in the final.



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