

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

# Review • Club

VOLUME 35 - Issue 8, 2022



# Coca-Cola

Real Magic

FREE SOFT DRINKS FOR  
**Designated Drivers**

UP TO 2 FREE SOFT  
DRINKS PER PERSON\*



\*Offer applies to 200ml & 330ml range.



\*Scan the QR code or  
visit the Coca-Cola App  
for participating outlets,  
terms and conditions.

BAILEYS



'TIS THE  
SEASON

\* FOR \*

Profits



for the facts  
[drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)

STOCK UP NOW

# A Christmas message from your Chairman & Secretary



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



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

Christmas 2022 and we still face the aftermath of the pandemic, now added to by an economic crisis approaching that of 2008. Who would have thought that one of the biggest economies in the world would see its people regularly having to visit food banks!

As a major part of the hospitality sector, we know full well the difficulties faced by our members in respect to staffing and running costs, all of which are reflected across the entire hospitality industry.

Regrettably, some member clubs have closed their doors, which is also very likely to happen in the restaurant and bar trades.

The recent political changes in Westminster have had a devastating impact on the UK's economic standing on the world stage, so we can only hope that things will settle down and that what appears to be a reset will

pass soon to create better times ahead for us all.

The old adage that those who prepare best suffer less has certainly been shown to be the case, with many of our member clubs providing restaurant quality food for members and guests. Reports from some club secretaries reveal that it appears that eating out is saving members on their home energy costs!

While the days of wearing face masks everywhere are behind us to quite an extent, providing cleansing stations remains in place at a number of outlets, including registered clubs, which is viewed as good practice.

At a recent Executive Committee meeting, the Federation Annual General Meeting was discussed. As with others, the said AGM was suspended throughout the period of the pandemic, which was the responsible thing to do.

However, we are in a different place now and it is anticipated that the reintroduction of our AGM will resume in 2023, so watch this space.

Nevertheless, and regardless of the aforesaid, we have continued to provide a service for our members, utilising the Federation website and social media channels to great effect, so much so that we will continue to develop this means of communication. The Helpline facility has also proved to be an enormous success, having kept us all in contact to resolve issues as quickly as possible.

As this year draws to a close, we look forward in anticipation

of better times to come - you could be forgiven for saying they couldn't get much worse - but we are a resilient lot and we remain confident that we will all find a way forward.

We take this opportunity to thank those companies that continue to support the Federation: *Diageo, Tennents NI, Molson Coors, Proximo, UWM, Drinks Inc, McCabe's, Coca-Cola, Sky, PRSPPL, Rollins Insurance, PCI, Stocktaking.com, MJ Utilities, Oasis, P&F Amusements, AVA Leisure, Shean Dickson Merrick and O'Hara Shearer*, to name only a few.

We wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2023.



**P C I**  
PUBS CLUBS & INTERIORS



*Based in Bangor, North Down, PCI offer a commercial shopfitting service alongside a bespoke joinery service for the domestic customer.*

**Call 028 9147 8000 for a free quote.**  
You can also call 078 5021 2962 or 077 8401 9989

**Email: [johnp.pci@gmail.com](mailto:johnp.pci@gmail.com) or [ronnie.pci@gmail.com](mailto:ronnie.pci@gmail.com)**  
[www.pubsclubsandinteriors.co.uk](http://www.pubsclubsandinteriors.co.uk)

Unit 88, Dunlop Commercial Park, Balloo Ind. Estate, Bangor, Co. Down BT19 7QY

## N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

**07889 800329**

**07889 681714**

**07889 800325**

**07763 835449 (North West)**

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



## New entertainment licence fees

### Effective from 6th April 2023

*For your information, the following is a copy of the Department for Communities, recent communication sent to all Councils to advise that, with effect from 6th April 2023, the fees to accompany applications for the renewal of an entertainment licence will revert to the pre-April 2021 levels. For the reasons set out in the following text, from 6th April next year there will no longer be any reduction to the fees for renewal applications.*

Article 3 and Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, as amended by Article 52 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1992,

make provision that certain specified entertainments shall not be provided at places, except under, and in accordance with, the terms, conditions and restrictions that are included in entertainment licences granted by district councils. The legislation also requires that any application for the grant, renewal, transfer or variation of an entertainments licence shall be accompanied by such fee as the Department for Communities may from time to time determine.

Towards the beginning of 2021, the hospitality industry made representations to the Department seeking easements to the costs of entertainment

licences to alleviate hardship being experienced by the industry as a result of COVID-19 restrictions at the time. Even with the easing of lockdown, there remained for some time many restrictions on live music and dancing and other live performances within venues, which meant businesses couldn't make full use of the entertainment licences for which they had paid.

In response, the Department amended the licensing fees structure to introduce a nominal fee of £1 for renewal applications only, for all categories of entertainment licence, with effect from 6th April 2021.

The reduction was to remain in place for the duration of the 2021/2022 financial year. Following a review early in 2022, it was decided to extend the period of the easement to cover the 2022/2023 year to give businesses time to return to normal trading practices, as COVID-19 restrictions had only recently been removed.

Additional funding provided by the Executive to support local councils with their financial pressures in respect of lost income and exceptional costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic was allocated to councils to cover these two years.

## Northern Ireland's leading supplier and distributor of:

- Club gaming machines
- Pool tables
- Juke boxes / BGM systems
- Quiz / Skill machines
- Big Screen / LED TVs

### OASIS RETAIL SERVICES

Oasis House, Mallusk Drive, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim BT36 4GX  
Office Tel: 028 9084 5845

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



The reduced licence fees have undoubtedly helped ease some of the financial burden for businesses in the hospitality industry, however, with the removal of all remaining COVID-19 restrictions earlier this year, licence holders will by April 2023 have had a year to get back on a normal trading footing.

The Department is of the view that there is no need to continue with this easement beyond the end of the 2022/23 financial year and therefore, with effect from 6th April 2023, fees for renewal entertainment licences will revert to pre-April 2021 levels.

Details of the revised fees, effective from 6th April 2023, are available to download from the Federation website. Simply visit [www.nifederationofclubs.com](http://www.nifederationofclubs.com) and click on the 'Latest Information' tab to download

the pdf containing all of the new fees.

If you need assistance with your club renewals, or any other legal matters, Federation solicitors Shean Dickson Merrick (SDM) are ready and willing to help you.

SDM have also made a 20% discount available to clubs. **Just quote NIFC when making your initial enquiry.**

Shean Dickson Merrick Solicitors have been the approved legal representatives to the Federation for many years, so you can be assured that you'll be in good hands whatever legal work you need help with.



# New year business health check

1. Update all the images on your club's website or social media page - and delete any out-of-date content.
2. Check the last six months of your P&L and highlight your worst selling drinks and menu items. Change them.
3. Search for your club online. Look for any out-of-date information and email the relevant site to get it changed/removed.
4. Draw up a list of your top five suppliers - call a competitor for each one and check you are getting the best deal. Most clubs can reduce their drinks spend by doing this.
5. Dig out your utilities bills and note the end of all the contract terms in your calendar and make a note a month before to shop around for the best price before each contract ends. Mark Rooney from MJ Utilities can do this for you to make sure you're on the best tariff. You can contact Mark on 0777 6994807.
6. Do a deep clean of the exterior of your club and car park. It will be noticed.
7. Create a group on WhatsApp for the club's members to join. Use it to engage them and post about topics they are interested in, not just as a promotional tool. You'll then have a willing audience when you ask for feedback on any changes you make, or invite them to exclusive events, or to try new menus. Designate a committee member to manage the group and provide feedback from the group to your committee meetings.
8. Come up with a plan to promote a specific drink or menu item to your members. Call the supplier of that product and ask them to sponsor your promotion/provide prizes, merchandise or extra stock. If you think you have a great selection of local drinks or some niche gins then make sure you properly promote them.
9. Create your own mystery customer feedback form including any areas that are new, or that you have had negative feedback on, and ask someone outside the club to give you an honest view.
10. Talk to your employees - do they have any ideas of where the club could be improved? Would they like to introduce a new product to trial? The bar staff have constant contact with the club's members - this is valuable feedback.
11. Write to your local MP and invite them to come to an event or pull a pint behind your bar - if they say yes then contact your local media and get a photographer to attend too.
12. Remind your members, that ultimately, they need to recruit new members. No club will survive without constantly recruiting new members and your existing members are your best form of advertisement and word of mouth. Ensure you provide a generous bar voucher both to new members and the member who recruited them.

**O'HARA SHEARER**  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

**A COMPLETE RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & ADVICE**  
*Providing an accountancy and audit service to private member clubs*

- Audit & Accountancy
- Taxation & Self Assessment
- Book-keeping
- Registered Charities & Community Groups Advisory Service



NIFC Approved

**547 Falls Road, Belfast BT11 9AB**  
(opposite Kennedy Centre)

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

**McCONNELL CHARTERED SURVEYORS**

**celebrating over 165 years in business**

we have a long and successful record in commercial property.

If you are a not for profit club and have concerns about your rates bill please do not hesitate to contact us for advice in relation to any potential Sport & Recreational relief that you may be entitled to.



**028 90 205 900**  
[www.mcconnellproperty.com](http://www.mcconnellproperty.com)

## New employer-focused 'Guide to Childcare' supports employees and boosts economy

As labour shortages and staff retention continues to impact the economy, the issues associated with accessing or affording appropriate childcare - viewed by many parents as one of the main barriers to employment - have been addressed in a new Guide for Employers. Working with the Labour Relations Agency (LRA), the Department for the Economy has launched, in conjunction with other stakeholders, the Employers Guide to Childcare.

The Guide contains the very latest advice to ensure employers and employees know exactly what support is available and how it can be accessed. The

Guide also acknowledges the extent to which working parents offer widespread societal and economic benefits. This is reflected in recent research by Employers for Childcare, which revealed that 98% of parents believe quality childcare provision is good for their children, good for them and good for the economy.

However, with a full-time childcare place costing an average of £170 per week (2021) and almost certainly rising in line with the spiralling cost of living, and with 54% of families reporting challenges in accessing the childcare they need, many decide work is not a viable option.

The research also revealed that one third of parents aren't claiming any financial support towards the cost of their childcare - with many unaware of what support is available. Likewise, businesses seem largely unaware of the government support which their employees can access to subsidise childcare costs. As this support is available with no cost implications for the employer, it not only makes childcare more affordable, but it also helps businesses recruit and retain the staff they need.

Helen Smyth, Advisory and Economic Development Manager of the LRA explains, "Faced with a cost-of-living crisis, spiralling inflation, and

a challenging labour market, the advice outlined in this new Guide is practical, valuable and supportive. It is next in a series of workplace guides which form part of our Employment Document Toolkit relating to family-friendly working practices. We've found the appetite for such information has spiked, particularly in a post pandemic society, where issues such as hybrid or flexible working are so pertinent. The benefits of such positive working practices are many as they empower employers, help attract and retain talent, improve productivity, and reduce the gender pay gap."

*The Guide is available from <https://www.lra.org.uk/employment-document-toolkit>*

## P & F AMUSEMENTS

*Part of P&F Group*

**N. Ireland's Premier Suppliers  
'Province-Wide'**



**ALL COIN OPERATED AMUSEMENT & GAMING  
MACHINES, FOBTs, POOL TABLES, SNOOKER TABLES  
and DIGITAL JUKEBOXES, BIG SCREEN T.V.'S,  
PLASMAS, BACKGROUND MUSIC SYSTEMS**



**SALES - SERVICE - RENT**  
Special Terms for Social Clubs

**For A Free "No Obligation" Quote  
call 028 9037 0314**

F: 028 9077 9408 • E: [info@pandfamusements.com](mailto:info@pandfamusements.com)  
W: [www.pandfamusements.com](http://www.pandfamusements.com)

**HEAD OFFICE: Unit 9, Graham Ind. Estate, Dargan Crescent, Belfast BT3 9LP**



# BUSHMILLS®

OVER 400 YEARS OLD

AND WE HAVE NEVER LOOKED BETTER



PURSuing PERFECTION SINCE 1608

# New VAT penalty system

HMRC is introducing a new penalty regime from January 2023 where VAT returns are submitted late or VAT is not paid by the due date. The new system will apply for VAT return periods starting on or after 1st January 2023.

The new penalty system from January 2023 will adopt a penalty point approach for both late submission and late payment in an apparent attempt to apply a level of penalty that is proportionate to the extent of the non-compliance with the VAT legislation.

Under the new scheme for VAT return periods starting on or after 1st January 2023, a VAT registered business will receive a penalty point for each occasion

that it submits a VAT return late. Once the business reaches a set number of penalty points (*determined by the frequency of VAT return submissions*), penalties will be charged by HMRC.

Penalties will be charged once the penalty thresholds have been reached as follows:  
Annual VAT returns - 2 points  
Quarterly VAT returns - 4 points  
Monthly VAT returns - 5 points

Once the relevant penalty threshold above has been reached, the VAT registered business will receive a £200 penalty. Although no further penalty points will be added, an additional £200 penalty will be charged for each subsequent late submission. There are special rules covering where a VAT

registered business changes the submission frequency of its returns whilst within the penalty regime.

It will be possible for a VAT registered business to reset its penalty point tally and reduce its accrued penalty points to zero. However, this will only happen if HMRC has received all outstanding VAT returns for the previous 24 months and the business has submitted its VAT returns on time for 24 months in the case of businesses submitting VAT returns annually, 12 months for businesses submitting VAT returns quarterly, or 6 months for businesses submitting VAT returns monthly.

For VAT return periods starting on or after 1st January 2023, late VAT payments will attract both interest and penalties.

HMRC will charge interest from the day the VAT payment is due up to the date of payment in full at a rate of interest of Bank of England base rate plus 2.5%, even where the business has a Time To Pay (TTP) arrangement in place.

No late payment penalty will be charged where the VAT is paid within 14 days of the due date. Thereafter a penalty will be charged at 2% of the VAT outstanding at day 15 and a further 2% of the VAT outstanding at day 30. Daily penalties at a rate of 4% per annum will then be charged from day 31 until the VAT is paid in full.

Where the VAT registered business applies for a TTP arrangement by day 15, this will have the effect of there being no late payment penalty charged.

It is important to stress that it is the application that needs to be made by day 15, as opposed to the approval by HMRC.

The suspension of a penalty where there is a TTP arrangement will only remain as long as the business adheres to the conditions of the TTP arrangement. As such, the importance of ensuring that payments made under a TTP arrangement are made in line with the agreement cannot be understated. Missing even one agreed payment under the TTP arrangement could result in full penalties being charged, even where all previous instalments have been paid on time.

Alongside the above changes, HMRC will also be withdrawing repayment supplement for VAT return periods beginning on or after 1st January 2023. HMRC will instead pay repayment interest from the day after the due date or the date of submission (*whichever date is later*) until the repayment is made. This will be at a rate of the Bank of England base rate minus 1%, subject to a minimum rate of 0.5%.

To allow VAT registered businesses to become familiar with the new regime, HMRC has advised that it will not charge a first late payment penalty during 2023, provided that businesses pay in full within 30 days of the payment due date.

In times of increasing interest rates, this may be welcomed by VAT registered businesses as they manage their cash flow. But it is important to remember that late payment interest is payable from day one, at a rate of interest linked to the Bank of England base rate.

**SDM** SHEAN DICKSON MERRICK  
SOLICITORS

38/42 Hill Street  
Belfast BT1 2LB

Tel: 028 9032 6878  
Fax: 028 9032 3473

Email: [law@sdmsolicitors.com](mailto:law@sdmsolicitors.com)  
Web: [www.sdmsolicitors.com](http://www.sdmsolicitors.com)

SDM is offering all members of the  
N.I. Federation of Clubs  
**20% off Legal Fees\***  
Inc. Conveyancing, Matrimonial,  
Personal Injury Claims, Wills and Probate

\*Does not include disbursements  
Quote "N.I.F.C." when making your enquiry



Official Solicitors  
of the N.I.F.C.



## Reminders

**Renewal of Registration Clubs** are reminded that their 5 year registration is due for renewal in March 2023. Your club solicitor should prepare for the said renewal in time to meet the deadline.

### Entertainment Licence Renewals

Clubs should remember that entertainment licence renewals should be lodged with your local council by 6th April 2023.

### Performing Rights Society & Phonographic Performances Ltd

The PRS and PPL Licenses need to be renewed each year. These Licenses cover different types of copyright payable for playing any

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

## Designated Driver brings 'Real Magic' to this year's Christmas festivities

As the Christmas season returns in full swing for the first time in two years, Coca-Cola HBC is excited to bring 'Real Magic' once again with the return of its annual Designated Driver initiative. The campaign seeks to reward the Designated Drivers

who stay sober on nights out, to ensure friends and family get home safely, with two free soft drinks or water from the Coca-Cola range.

As we gear up to welcome the full return of festive celebrations, enjoying meals and nights out together, Coca-Cola wants to take the worry out of how customers will get home this Christmas.

Not only will Designated Drivers be rewarded with two drinks across participating venues in Ireland and Northern Ireland, but Coca-Cola is also partnering with Q-Park to offer free parking spots in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Belfast every weekend in December.



*Pictured is Cool FM broadcaster & influencer Melissa Riddell, ably assisted by her elves, at the launch of the 2022 Coca-Cola Designated Driver campaign.*

And this year to add even more Real Magic and recognise the important role Designated Drivers play, the Coca-Cola elves will add some sparkle and valet two Designated Driver cars at each location every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in December. The initiative is supported by all leading trade associations in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

To find out how to book a Designated Driver parking space for free and be in with a chance to have their car valeted, consumers can visit [www.coca-cola.ie/designated-driver](http://www.coca-cola.ie/designated-driver)

Designated Driver runs from 1st December 2022 to 1st January 2023.

**E E Gaming**

# AVA LEISURE

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF GAMING

Major supplier in Northern Ireland with over 40 years experience

- FRUIT MACHINE
- POKER & CLUB MACHINE
- BAR HOCKEY & POOL TABLES
- LED DIGITAL BACKBONE
- LARGE SCREEN TOUCH SCREENS
- VIDEO WALLS

For more information call Scott

### 07810 743 164

365 days a year call out service available

AVA Leisure  
14 Prince Regent Road  
Belfast BT5 6QF

## He's making a list and checking it twice, going to find out who's naughty or nice...



Christmas is a time for festivities, families and the famous work party. Given the tumultuous two years of COVID we have experienced, it's not surprising that people are ready to let their hair down and enjoy the first work Christmas party in a few years.

However, many people do not realise, but whilst the Christmas party is held out of hours, it is still an extension of work and therefore bound by the expectations around conduct that would normally be in place in the normal work environment.

Generally speaking, an act of gross misconduct is potentially serious enough to breach a contract between an employer and employee and justify dismissal depending on the severity of the situation.

Before venturing to the work party, there are a few things that employers and employees should consider. Employers need to think about the safety and wellbeing of their employees as it's not just legislation, but it also relates to the credibility and reputation of your company.

Therefore they should make clear the conduct they expect to model themselves and to see within their own employees at the work party. This doesn't mean that the fun has to go out the window, however it does mean that personal responsibility must be a priority.

### Things to consider

Alcohol consumption can often lead to situations that would not normally take place in the work environment, such as harassment, personal injury and general inappropriate behaviour. While alcohol will not be removed from events, it is strongly suggested that restraint should be displayed from someone within your group and that person should be the designated driver.

In addition to this, overconsumption of alcohol can often result in the posting of information and pictures to social media that would not normally be acceptable. Social media can destroy a reputation and we must be mindful that once pictures are posted on Facebook or other social media sites, you no longer have the copyright to the images. It is also very difficult and can be a long-protracted battle to have content removed from the internet.

The work party should be about building up and encouraging positive working relationships, rather than the breakdown of those relationships because of poor choices.

In order to set healthy boundaries, here is a list of helpful dos and donts for employers and employees.

### Dos for employers

- Invite all employees to the party, even if absent through sickness, maternity or paternity leave;
- Remind employees of the

company's expectations and be clear on what will be considered an appropriate virtual behaviour;

- Try to control the amount of free alcohol and make sure food and non-alcoholic drinks are provided as well as catering for all dietary needs;
- Be prepared to deal with any inappropriate behaviour in line with company policy and be consistent in how you apply the policy;
- Avoid discussions about career prospects or remuneration with employees;
- Consider nominating a member of management to refrain from alcohol at the event in order to deal with any emergencies or incidents that arise and to monitor any underage employees;
- Ensure that the venue chosen is accessible for all eg. disabled employees;
- Remind employees it is still a work related event and a certain level of

professionalism is expected from everyone.

### Donts for employees

- Forget you are effectively still at work, so conduct yourself accordingly;
- Drink too much so that you don't know what you're doing;
- Get involved in office gossip or office banter which could be considered offensive;
- Try to discuss why you should have a pay rise with your manager;
- Make any unwelcome advances or gestures - sexual or otherwise;
- Become violent or aggressive.

For all employer specific HR needs, Lockton Companies LLP provide an HR Consultancy & Advisory Service.

Contact Ronnie McCullough or Shannen Lyons on the numbers below if you have any HR related queries and they'll be delighted to help you.

### Contact us



**Ronnie McCullough**  
HR Consultancy Team Manager

T: +44 (0)289 024 8989

M: +44 (0)7810 592 240

E: [ronnie.mccullough@lockton.com](mailto:ronnie.mccullough@lockton.com)



**Shannen Lyons**  
HR Consultant

T: +44 (0)289 034 8422

M: +44 (0)7721 483 220

E: [shannen.lyons@lockton.com](mailto:shannen.lyons@lockton.com)

# Blow to clubs as Government cancels freeze on alcohol duty rates

The Government has cancelled next year's planned freeze to alcohol duty rates, less than a month after announcing the policy. In a statement to Parliament on October 17th, the new Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, confirmed that the freeze - due to come into force in February 2023 - would no longer take place (correct at time of going to press).

"Whilst we will continue with the abolition of the Health and Social Care Levy and stamp duty changes, we will no longer be proceeding with the cuts to dividend tax rates, the reversal of payroll working reforms introduced in 2017 and 2021, the new VAT-free shopping scheme for non-UK visitors

or the freeze on alcohol duty rates," Hunt said.

Alcohol duty will now rise in line with inflation, as measured by the retail price index (RPI) which was 12.3% at the time of writing.

The rise would be the equivalent of 7p on a pint of beer, 38p on a bottle of wine and £1.35 on a bottle of spirits.

The Government said the next steps of its alcohol duty review - which included measures to introduce an 18-month transitional measure for wine duty, as well as a draught duty rate for beer by August 2023 - would continue as planned.



Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt.

## TRANS<sup>4</sup>MATION UPHOLSTERY

### SEATING & UPHOLSTERY MANUFACTURERS

T 028 9186 1656

M 07515 901 288

E [trans4mation-upholstery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:trans4mation-upholstery@hotmail.co.uk)



H&W Welders FSC, Belfast



46 Abbey Road, Millisle, Newtownards, County Down BT22 2DG



## FULL STOCKTAKING SERVICE and VALUATIONS



"46 years behind bars"

- ▶ Professionally qualified through the Institute of Licensed Trade Stock Auditors
- ▶ The only NIFC approved stock-taking provider
- ▶ Preferred suppliers to Hospitality Ulster

T: 028 7034 4666 • M: 07778 762007

W: [www.stocktaking.com](http://www.stocktaking.com)

E: [enquiries@stocktaking.com](mailto:enquiries@stocktaking.com)

Beresford House, 2 Beresford Road, Coleraine BT52 1HE

Qualified members of the Institute of Licensed Trade Stock Auditors

# MUST-SEE SPORTING MOMENTS FOR YOUR MEMBERS



sky sports

# DON'T MISS AN ACTION-PACKED LINE-UP OF SPORT COMING UP IN 2023

Upcoming live action includes:



Plus so much more

TALK TO US TODAY ABOUT  
ADDING LIVE SPORT TO YOUR CLUB

**08442 411 528**

sky business

# Sky Sports – Giving your members a festive feast this Christmas

With England and Wales playing in Qatar, the buzz around football is at fever pitch. For all the avid football fans, as well as the new fanbase riding high on World Cup mania, Sky Sports clubs can give them their fix of domestic football once the tournament ends.

The Scottish Premiership returns on Thursday 15th December with Rangers v Hibs, and the fixtures come thick and fast. Aberdeen will be put through their paces when they play Celtic on Saturday 17th December followed by a game against Rangers on Tuesday 20th December. There's action from the Old Firm to add atmosphere throughout the festive season, with Ross County v Rangers on Friday 23rd December and Hibs v Celtic on Wednesday 28th December. All this ahead of a showstopper to kick off 2023 when Rangers host Celtic on Monday 2nd January.

After the World Cup, focus will turn to the next piece of silverware - the Carabao Cup. Liverpool are the defending champions of the cup, after ending Manchester City's four-year successive dominance - meaning you can expect conversation and drinks to flow when you show these two going head-to-head in the knockout fourth round on Thursday 22nd December.

Offering a path to a piece of silverware for both big teams, and small teams alike, the Carabao Cup always offers a unique atmosphere. Your club can show the quarter-finals and semi-finals in January, ahead of the final on Sunday 26th

February, all exclusively live on Sky Sports.

The festive season gets underway when the Premier League returns, and what better way to bring members together than by showing Liverpool v Leicester on Friday 30th December; Brighton v Arsenal on Saturday 31st December and Brentford v Liverpool on Monday 2nd January. January offers a whopping fifteen games as players settle back into their domestic teams and resume their Premier League title campaign. Sky Sports will continue to offer the top picks in 2023, including some huge games including Spurs v Arsenal on Sunday 15th January, and Arsenal v Man Utd on Sunday 22nd January.

Darts has become a staple of the festive period, and the celebratory atmosphere that comes from the World Championship makes it a highlight in the darts calendar. Your club can bring members together for all the action on the dedicated Sky Sports Darts channel from 15th December until 3rd January.

There's plenty more to look forward to in 2023. The new F1 season gets underway in March, and there will be a record twenty-four races. The new season will offer a bumper schedule featuring a maiden Las Vegas Grand Prix and a return to China.

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 up this winter:

Thursday 15th December	
to Tuesday 3rd January .....	World Darts Championship
Thursday 15th December .....	Rangers v Hibs - 8.00pm
Saturday 17th December .....	Aberdeen v Celtic - 12.30pm
Tuesday 20th December .....	Aberdeen v Rangers - 8.00pm
Wednesday 21st Dec. ....	Carabao Cup: Man Utd v Burnley - 8.00pm
Thursday 22nd Dec. ....	Carabao Cup: Man City v Liverpool - 8.00pm
Friday 23rd December .....	Ross County v Rangers - 7.30pm
Wednesday 28th Decemberr .....	Hibs v Celtic - 8.00pm
Friday 30th December .....	Liverpool v Leicester - 8.00pm
Saturday 31st December .....	Brighton v Arsenal - 5.30pm
Sunday 1st January .....	Spurs v Aston Villa - 2.00pm
	Notts Forest v Chelsea - 4.30pm
Monday 2nd January .....	Rangers v Celtic - 12.30pm
	Brentford v Liverpool - 5.30pm
Tuesday 3rd January .....	Arsenal v Newcastle - 8.00pm
Wednesday 4th January .....	Crystal Palace v Spurs - 8.00pm
Thursday 5th January .....	Chelsea v Man City - 8.00pm
Sunday 8th January .....	Motherwell v Hibs - 1.30pm
	Dundee Utd v Rangers - 4.00pm
Tuesday 10th & Wed. 11th January .....	Carabao Cup Quarter Finals
Friday 13th January .....	Aston Villa v Leeds Utd - 8.00pm
Saturday 14th January .....	Brentford v Bournemouth - 5.30pm
Sunday 15th January .....	Newcastle v Fulham - 2.00pm
	Spurs v Arsenal - 4.30pm



UNITED  
WINES

from our business  
to yours, this Christmas!



[drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)  
for the facts

visit: [www.unitedwines.co.uk](http://www.unitedwines.co.uk)

Call: 028 3831 6555



## Sip into something festive this Christmas with Schweppes

Ireland and Northern Ireland's number one mixer, Schweppes, is kicking off the festive season with its campaign, 'You've got the Christmas spirit, we've got the tonic!'

Schweppes will drive footfall into on-trade venues this festive season, by offering consumers a complimentary 'Gin & Tonic'. The campaign will see over 2,500 drinks served to target consumers across participating bars on the island, positioning Schweppes as the mixer of choice this Christmas.

Andrea Whyte, Marketing Director, Coca-Cola HBC explains, "Christmas remains a pivotal time for the Schweppes brand. Demonstrating the popularity of the number one mixer, over 1 million litres of Schweppes sold in the grocery channel last December which is around 24 litres every minute! "Together with our customers, we will ensure that Schweppes plays its part in spreading Christmas spirit across the country."

Aisling Wilde, Frontline Activation Lead at Coca-Cola Ireland also said, "Our hope is that Schweppes forms part of the enjoyment during the festive season this year with friends and family."

"We will continue with that tone of voice, and we will also respond to consumer demand for a high-quality product to pair with premium spirits during the holiday season."

### On-trade

The brand's mission this Christmas will be to support the on-trade during one of the busiest periods of the year. On-trade deals and free stock will be provided to outlets, driving transactions and availability of key Schweppes packs. The support will include glassware and 'gin trees' to keep the brand top of mind for customers and patrons alike in outlet.

Schweppes is also continuing to build relationships with bar staff across the country and will share a newly developed 'suggested serve' booklet, to provide some new Schweppes inspiration for Christmas menus. The Schweppes sales team will also work in partnership with outlets to activate the brand on menus, highlighting mixability opportunities and suggested serves.

Schweppes will also provide mixability gift boxes including samples of Schweppes Pink Soda and Elderflower, glassware and miniature spirit bottles for key on-trade customers to provide as giveaways on their own social media channels, driving interaction this Christmas.

For more information, visit [www.coca-cola.ie](http://www.coca-cola.ie)



## Heineken® 0.0 Designated Driver campaign



*Pictured in celebration of the initiative are (l-r) Paul O'Hare, Mauna Bradshaw, United Wines Business Development Manager and Gemma Herdman, United Wines Brand Manager.*

Heineken® is delighted to announce the launch of its Designated Driver campaign, rewarding those in the driving seat with a complementary Heineken®0.0 throughout the festive period. With the sparkly season of parties and nights out upon us, Heineken®0.0 wants to encourage responsible drinking over the Christmas period and help designated drivers enjoy their night out while getting their friends and family home safely. Partygoers who volunteer themselves as designated driver will be rewarded with a free Heineken®0.0 when they make themselves known to staff at participating venues by showing their car keys at the bar.

Without compromising on quality or taste, Heineken®0.0 gives consumers more choice and variety for all occasions and empowers those who can't or don't want to drink alcohol, to be involved in every beer and non-beer moment.

"We're delighted to launch this campaign to encourage the vital message of getting home safely and keeping the roads alcohol free during the busy upcoming party season. Even those who volunteer to drive deserve to enjoy their sober night out, so we're positive this initiative will bring some extra festive cheer," said Gemma Herdman, Brand Manager for Craigavon-based United Wines, which handles all of Heineken®'s sales, marketing and distribution in Northern Ireland.

"We can anticipate a fair share of designated drivers this party season as one in every two consumers are looking to moderate their alcohol intake, which is reflected in sales data showing that the 'no and low alcohol' category has grown an impressive 506% in the past six years. The no alcohol category is continuing to grow year on year with 1 in every 10 consumers looking to abstain from alcohol completely," concluded Gemma.



# A WINTER WARMER

SPEND TIME IN GROUSE COUNTRY



For further information, please contact your  
McCabes Sales Representative or

**SALES OFFICE: 028 3833 3102**



## NCU Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation 2022

As the playing of cricket in the NCU during the pandemic times continued, albeit restricted with rules and regulations altered, the end-of-season awards night did not continue. With all the hard work that players, teams and officials put into the cricket season, there must be an evening of celebration at the end of it all, and it was great to see the return of such an event.

On Saturday 8th October, the dinner and awards went ahead at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast, with a capacity attendance and plenty of trophies and other awards to match. From League and Cup Trophy presentations to Hall of Fame inductees, the night was a tremendous success

in showcasing the hard work and talent within the NCU.

With his first cricket season as NCU Chief Executive completed, it was fitting that the awards night could return as we get back to normality after the past few years. Patrick Grimes enjoyed the evening and is positive about the future of cricket in our union.

Patrick said, "It was fantastic to see the return of our Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation after a couple of years' hiatus due to Covid. The evening has an important place in our calendar annually and celebrates the achievements of cricketers at every level of our local game.



*Pictured at the recent North West Cricket Union dinner are: Jim Bennett (President Cricket Leinster), Connie McAllister (President North West Cricket Union), David Griffin (President Cricket Ireland), and Roger Bell (President Northern Cricket Union). One of the speakers said, "We had so many Presidents along that it was lucky there wasn't an assassin in the room!"*

More importantly, it allows everyone to interact with their peers, which is such an important element within local cricket.

Congratulations to all the award winners on their successes in 2022 and we look forward to seeing their talents on display again in 2023."

## Guests sip back and relax at exclusive Taylor's Port tasting event

Leading drinks distributor United Wines recently welcomed Amanda Lloyd, Export Manager of Taylor's Port, to the Crafty Vintner Wine Merchant and Tasting Rooms in Belfast for an exclusive tasting event. Taylor's is one of the oldest founding Port houses and has been making Port in the Douro Valley, Portugal since 1692. It is widely renowned as one of the best Port wine producers. "It's been a pleasure to travel to Northern Ireland again to present the beautiful Taylor's Port portfolio ahead of the

festive season," said Amanda Lloyd, Export Manager of Taylor's Port.

"Port is heavily associated with Christmas and the New Year, so it's an important trading period for us. Attendees of the tasting enjoyed delicious sharing boards of foods to accompany their introduction to port served with tonic and mint, then onto 2016 and 2017 vintage port," added Amanda.

Keith McCormick of the Crafty Vintner added, "We were thrilled to welcome



*Ciaran Meyler (centre), Wine Manager for United Wines and Keith McCormick of the Crafty Vintner (right) welcome Amanda Lloyd, Export Manager for Taylor's Port, (left) to the Crafty Vintner in Belfast.*

Taylor's Port and Export Manager Amanda Lloyd to the Tasting Room last night. An evening of port and cheese

was the perfect start to the festive season and with no better company than such a prestigious port house."

Merry  
CHRISTMATES! 

# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FAMILY



## Brendan Monaghan shares his life in music with Nigel



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

As we approach the Christmas season, the featured recording artist/singer/songwriter and musician in my column this month is Brendan Monaghan.

Having known Brendan over many years, I am pleased to share his life in music, touring the world, and his love of life, family, and friendships. I have interviewed Brendan on many occasions at my Fun-Day Sunday show at Belfast 89FM, mainly on his return from travels around the globe plying his musical trade, also debuting his self-penned albums.

In recent years, my Christmas playlist has always been inclusive of Brendan's hit

song 'The Snow Fell Down', a pleasurable work of art.

Brendan is based in County Down, where he was brought up, and dearly loves the area. He told me, "Touring around the world has been enjoyable, introducing my songs to a constantly growing audience over many years, each time coming home to my loving family. Yes, there is no place like home."

Brendan's first enjoyable memories of music are from a very early age at his family home. He said, "The record player and radio were a big part of my daily life, and without a doubt influenced my choice in embarking on a musical career."

He took up guitar in his early teens, initially self-tutored, and picked up some tips from other guitarists along the way. As to the lyrics of his songs, Brendan told me, "From my early days at school I was pretty decent at writing poetry and compositions of stories, I guess I was always of a mind that some day I would perform my songs and accompany myself on guitar."



"I first took to the stage in my early twenties; I only ever played in two bands in my career, a new wave band called 'Dogmatic Element', then a new country outfit, 'The Cattle Company'. In the early 2000s, my work with the Cattle Company had run its course, and as what seemed a natural progression, came the career change to solo artist singer/songwriter. From that time on I have toured constantly, mainly in Europe, Canada, and America. There have been highlights along the way, the release of my nine solo albums, picking up awards along the way, and sharing the stage with many iconic artists from the music industry. I am content with my music career yet remain ambitious. I always want to achieve improvement in my songwriting and performance in any way I can. I feel very blessed in life with the gifts God has given me and for my career; I will remain eternally grateful."

Brendan concluded, "I would also like to thank my family and all who have assisted me in my life and music."

Brendan has a charismatic personality which extends into his stage performance, and I feel all the better for having his friendship! He has released a new album, 'Light from the Light that Never Ends', a magnificent piece of work containing 14 tracks from the heart. Brendan's album is available on all digital platforms or on CD from Brendan Monaghan Music. Without doubt, this new album will achieve great success.

I end by thanking Brendan for his music and friendship and for the fun over the years, and I wish him every success for the future.

A very merry, happy, healthy Christmas to you one and all.  
Nigel

**Entertainment Licence Renewals  
Electrical Inspections  
Fire Risk assessments**

Lyle Dunn 07748634430  
E: lyle.dunn@btconnect.com

# Support Cancer Fund for Children Santa Cause Christmas appeal



This Christmas, we at Cancer Fund for Children will continue to support families, providing festive cheer and a little magic to children and young people impacted by cancer. We are calling clubs throughout Northern Ireland to support our Santa Cause Christmas Appeal to help us fund these vital services and ensure that no child has to face cancer alone.

Whether taking part in a Santa Cause Jumper Day, sponsoring a light on our Virtual Support Tree, or making a donation, your support could help our team of Cancer Support Specialists deliver up to four hundred individual support sessions to young people impacted by cancer or help provide short breaks at our therapeutic short break centre, Daisy Lodge, for up to seventy-nine families.

This year's campaign is supported by mum Angela Millar, whose family we supported following her own cancer diagnosis.

"It's hard to put into words how much Cancer Fund for Children has helped me and my kids. My youngest, Ben, loves to see his Cancer Support Specialist, Gill, coming. It gives him his own wee time out and a break from the reality of cancer. People should support Cancer Fund for Children this Christmas because this charity helps you feel less alone and they depend on fundraising to continue to deliver their vital services."

Gill, Cancer Support Specialist to Angela's son Ben, is

delighted the family have decided to add their voice to the Christmas season.

"I met Ben and his mum Angela in May 2022 in the family home. I got to know Ben and his older brother James, playing card games and chatting. Angela was keen that Ben have additional support to try and process his feelings and emotions around her cancer diagnosis and have the opportunity to talk to someone outside the immediate family. We have practised various mindfulness activities, such as breathing techniques, and identified people in his life who provide support to him, creating a personalised 'Support tree'.

"I'm blown away that they've been so active in our Christmas campaign and so proud that I have had a positive impact on this experience for them and that they want to help us ensure this support is available for all families across the island of Ireland."

Visit our website [www.cancerfundforchildren.com/event/santa-cause-2022/](http://www.cancerfundforchildren.com/event/santa-cause-2022/) today to help support children like Ben this festive season, or scan the QR code below.



Angela pictured with her sons James (left) and Ben (middle).

## The name you trust for all your personal and commercial insurance needs



Rollins is the preferred Insurance supplier of the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs

Rollins is a family run business with over 75 years experience providing personal and commercial insurance.

Rollins takes great pride in it's personal service, competitive prices and attention to detail.

**Call us today for an insurance solution to meet your exact requirements on 02890 429800.**



Telephone: 02890 429800 [www.rollinsinsurance.co.uk](http://www.rollinsinsurance.co.uk)

## NI Football Writers' Awards - October



October saw a clean sweep of the top awards for Glentoran, with Mick McDermott picking up the Manager of the Month Award and Conor McMenemy the Player of the Month Award. Chairwoman Ruth Gorman is pictured making the presentations.

The Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association has named Glentoran's Mick McDermott as Manager of the Month for October.

During the month the Glens enjoyed a 100% record, claiming league victories over Carrick Rangers, Linfield, Newry City and Larne, as well as progressing to the semi-final stages of two cup competitions.

McDermott said, "I hear the desire within the team in training, before games, at half-time and at full-time, not to concede, not to lose. It's

nice to see the players take responsibility and fix things themselves without needing to be told. As we've said before, it's all about performances, both individual and collective. If you show up and you perform, when you look at the scoreboard after 90 minutes, the result should be in your favour.

"Our boys have turned up and performed really well. There is an honesty and a maturity in this group of players, and that has helped us. This award is for the whole team. I'd like to thank the Football Writers' for selecting us."



Glentoran's Conor McMenemy is the Dream Spanish Homes Player of the Month for October.

The Northern Ireland international enjoyed a superb month, bagging five goals as the Glens finished the month at the top of the table.

A delighted McMenemy said, "I'd like to thank Dream

Spanish Homes and the Football Writers' for this award.

"I'm really enjoying my football at the minute. The team is doing great and these awards are really for the whole team. I feel like we have a really good camp; we enjoy coming in every day and the gaffer (Mick McDermott) signed well in the summer, so we are seeing the benefits of that."

Ballyclare Comrades FC man Darius Roohi has been named Championship Player of the Month for October.

The ex-Warrenpoint Town centre forward scored five goals in the month, hitting a brace in the Comrades' five-goal victories over both Dundela and Harland and Wolff Welders.

Roohi said, "It feels great to win my first Player of the Month



award, but really, I'm here on behalf of everyone at Ballyclare."

**15% OFF ALL PRINTING**  
available to all NIFC member clubs

**Media**  
Design and Print  
.com

**We print: Posters, leaflets, tickets, rule books, banners, ballot tickets, business stationery and lots, lots more...**



Unit B7, Portview Trade Centre, 310 Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 1HE  
T: 028 9045 9864 F: 028 9045 9034 E: [printing@mediadesignandprint.com](mailto:printing@mediadesignandprint.com)

WINES *by*  
KYLIE MINOGUE



SALES OFFICE: 028 9079 0444  
FREEPHONE: 0800 7833215



OMAGH - TEL: 028 8224 6494  
L'DERRY - TEL: 028 7135 8999

# LET'S CHRISTMAS TOGETHER



VISIT DIAGEO  
ONE TO STOCK  
UP NOW

be [drinkaware.co.uk](https://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

Get the facts. Be **DRINKAWARE** Visit [drinkaware.ie](https://www.drinkaware.ie)