

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

# Review Club

VOLUME 36 - Issue 2, 2023

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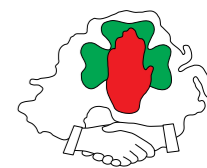


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## Operating costs remain stubbornly high

A message from your Chairman & Secretary



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



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

It's incredible that it is three years since the commencement of the first COVID lockdown that created so many tragic life-changing events for us all.

Having worked our way through one crisis, it's now another global matter, the war in Ukraine, that is causing so much unrest and disruption to everyday life, and of course leading to the tragic loss of life in the areas affected.

I feel it's fair to assume that it will be quite some time before we see anything resembling the life we enjoyed prior to 2020, but it is our hope that life will indeed become relatively easier for everyone in the months and years ahead.

Energy costs have in general come down, but due to the reduction in the Government's support package, they remain stubbornly high!

The problem is further impacted by high inflation which is continuing to drive the increase in the cost of living. We can only hope that everyday expenses for food etc. stabilise, and even come down when supermarket chains get their global supplies back on track.

It was natural that other areas of our everyday club life would be impacted, such as the rating review, which has been reflected in some of our member clubs benefitting from a reduction in rates, whereas others have unfortunately seen an increase.

It was only to be expected that other sectors would follow suit in increasing costs, such as Sky TV, which was very generous in putting bills on hold for quite some time during the lockdown, but which will be applying an increase from May. Thankfully however, the said

increase will be below the rate of inflation.

We will be interested to see how things pan out as we move through the year. Hopefully some warmer weather will allow members to reduce their energy costs to some extent, although I hope we're not being overly optimistic in respect to the local climate.

While the Protocol debate runs on, we are hopeful that a solution will be found to allow us all to move to a lasting and fruitful outcome for everyone. As they say, 'the devil is in the detail', which when scrutinised, will hopefully provide a positive outcome for us all.

Although, as mentioned earlier, costs are increasing, the Federation membership renewals, which have already commenced, again remain unchanged since inception of the Federation. Our Helplines continue to provide assistance and the information provided on our website and via Club Review prove to be invaluable in assisting members on a range of issues relative to the registered club sector.

We extend a warm welcome to those registered clubs which have joined us and thank all those sector associated businesses which have continued to support us throughout these difficult times.

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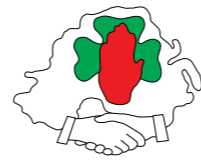
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# Minutes of the Executive Meeting



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

The meeting was opened, following which the Secretary read the minutes of the February meeting. These were subsequently passed as a true record by Tommy McMinn and Gerry Gallagher.

relevant department, following which we will assist the club management committee in question.

The Chairman raised the matter of a club requiring clarity on what a club can demand of a member in respect to attending his or her club and if this can impact on their right to membership. Yet again, this is a complex matter that essentially will revolve around the club constitution, which outlines the rights both the club and its members have, to include those who live locally and those who may live abroad (country members).

A query submitted by a member club was the subject of an in-depth discussion. The matter involved the complex issue of complaints by neighbours etc., which have a tendency to arise from time to time.

Following some consideration, the Chairman suggested that we contact Belfast City Council to discuss the detail with their

Another club matter was raised, which again implicates officers, their duties, and compliance with management committee requirements. As with all matters of this type, the club constitution and compliance with the NI Clubs Order is essential.

It was requested that we correspond with suppliers, requesting consideration when invitations to various events are being extended. It is perceived that the Federation are being overlooked.

At this point the Treasurer presented a financial report to the Executive Committee. The

Chairman recently undertook to reduce paperwork for the Treasurer by smoothing out the process of producing accounts for each executive committee meeting. The said financial report was passed as a true record by Philip Mallon and Joe Patterson.

It was suggested that the next meeting be convened in West Belfast, with Brian McCartney undertaking to speak to a club in the area to confirm availability.

At this point, the meeting was brought to a close by thanking H&W Welders for hosting it.

H. Beckinsale  
Secretary

# HMRC reminds businesses about new VAT penalties and interest payments on late filings

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reminding Value Added Tax (VAT) registered businesses to file their VAT returns and pay on time, ahead of new penalties being applied.

The new penalties will be fairer and more proportionate for businesses who submit their VAT returns or pay their VAT late. The first monthly returns and payments affected by the penalties were due by 7th March 2023.

The late payment penalties and points-based late submission penalties were introduced from 1st January 2023, replacing the VAT default surcharge, and apply to accounting periods which start after that date.

The penalties for late VAT returns also apply to businesses that submit nil returns and repayment returns. Changes have also been made to how interest is calculated.

Paul Riley, director of Tax Administration, HMRC, said, "Our aim is to help customers

get things right before monetary penalties are applied; a points-based system for late VAT returns will not punish the occasional error.

"We are contacting 2.5 million VAT registered businesses about the changes and will continue to support customers to help them manage their tax affairs and payments."

The changes to VAT penalties and interest payments are:

- Late submission penalties - These work on a points-based system. For each VAT return submitted late, customers will receive a penalty point until they reach the penalty point threshold - at which stage they will receive a £200 penalty. A further £200 penalty will also apply for each subsequent late submission while at the threshold, which varies to take account of monthly, quarterly and annual accounting periods.
- Late payment penalties - If a VAT payment is more than

15 days overdue, businesses will pay a first late payment penalty. If the VAT payment is more than 30 days overdue, the first late payment penalty increases and a second late payment penalty will also apply. To help customers get used to the changes HMRC will not charge a first late payment penalty on VAT payments due on or before 31 December 2023, if businesses either pay in full or a payment plan is agreed within 30 days of the payment due date.

- Payment plans - HMRC will help businesses that cannot pay their VAT bill in full. Customers may be able to set up a payment plan to pay their bill in instalments. After 31 December 2023, if a customer proposes a payment plan within 15 days of payment being due and HMRC agrees it, they would not be charged a late payment penalty, provided that they keep to the conditions of the payment plan. Late payment penalties can apply where proposals are made after

the first 15 days, but the agreement of the payment plan can prevent them increasing.

- Interest calculations - HMRC has introduced both late payment and repayment interest, which will replace previous VAT interest rules. This brings the new regime in line with other taxes.

Further details on the changes can be found on GOV.UK.

HMRC is also reminding businesses to be mindful of scams as they adjust to the changes. Never share your HMRC login details. Someone using them could steal from you or make a fraudulent claim in your name. Never give out personal information if you are unsure of who is contacting you.

For more information, go to GOV.UK and search for 'phishing and scams'.



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## Raven Club donation



Well done to the Raven Club in Belfast for their generous donation made recently to Kate McDonald from Belfast Trust's Charitable Funds Department. Derek Reid (centre) and Stephen Beattie from the Raven Club handed over a donation of £1,500 to Kate for the Critical Care Fund, for care Derek received whilst in the Regional Care Unit at the RVH, Belfast.

## New National Minimum Wage rates

Clubs should be aware that all minimum wage rates increase on 1st April of each year. This includes all National Minimum Wage rates and the National Living Wage rate. See the table below that shows the current minimum wage rates and new rates from April 2023.

|   | Current rate<br>since April 2022 | New rate<br>from April 2023 | Increase |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| National Living Wage<br>(23 years old and over) | £9.50                            | £10.42                      | 9.7%     |
| NMW adult rate<br>(21-22 years old)             | £9.18                            | £10.18                      | 10.9%    |
| NMW<br>(18-20 years old)                        | £6.83                            | £7.49                       | 9.7%     |
| NMW<br>(16-17 years old)                        | £4.81                            | £5.28                       | 9.8%     |
| NMW<br>(apprentice rate)                        | £4.81                            | £5.28                       | 9.8%     |
| Accommodation Offset                            | £8.70                            | £9.10                       | 4.6%     |

## AOH Lisburn reports 30% increase in turnover thanks to their new card terminal

It seems that AOH Lisburn has benefited greatly from implementing their new BOI UK Payment Acceptance (BOIPA UK) card terminal for payment processing.

Club Chairman, Josie Ferris, initially had reservations about how customers would respond to the new payment method but has since been pleased with the outcome. The 5-month offer to return the terminal if it wasn't utilised was a factor that helped convince Josie to give it a try.

Implementing the card terminal has resulted in several benefits for the club, including reduced banking charges and less time spent queuing to lodge cash. More importantly, overall turnover has increased by **over 30%** as customers are now able to pay via their phones, cards, and smart watches.

Senior Area Business Manager, Kieran McIlwaine and BOIPA UK engineer, Steven, who provided the service, were very helpful, providing excellent service and support when needed. The club has had other providers try to offer better deals, but none have come close to the service and benefits they have received from BOIPA UK. Implementing a card terminal has been a smart move for AOH Lisburn, providing several benefits and improving their overall customer experience.



AOH Lisburn Chairman, Josie Ferris, is delighted with the new payment system recently installed in the club by BOI UK Payment Acceptance.

For more information on getting a BOIPA UK system installed in your club, call Kieran McIlwaine today on 07388 990902 or email: [Kieran.Mcilwaine@BOIPA.co.uk](mailto:Kieran.Mcilwaine@BOIPA.co.uk)

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\*See [BOIPA.com/new-to-cards](http://BOIPA.com/new-to-cards) for terms and conditions.  
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# Congratulations to the Mallon family

The Executive Committee of the N.I. Federation of Clubs extend warmest congratulations to their colleague Philip Mallon upon receiving the Dermot Early Family Award for services to GAA.

Philip and Pat Mallon, originally from Omagh, relocated to Lurgan and Philip (snr) was one of the founding members of St Paul's GAA Club in Taghnevan and its first treasurer from 1971-1982.

They started out with underage teams and Philip's wife Pat was a coach at U-10 and U-12 in the early 1980s when there were very few, if any, female coaches. Philip would have been part of the Tenants association when Taghnevan was first built, and

Pat went on to be a local SDLP councillor for a number of years, looking out for the good of the local people. They continued to serve on the committee and coach teams while bringing up their own family, who all have represented St Paul's Club in various guises. They can still be actively seen around the club, which has some of the best facilities in the county, and the St Paul's Club and Taghnevan area has certainly benefited from the efforts of the Mallon family. Since 1971, St Paul's has grown to be one of the biggest clubs in Armagh and in Lurgan, where they have no shortage of neighbouring GAA clubs.

Philip served as Chairman from 1983 to 1987 before taking up the role of Secretary from



Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Larry McCarthy presents the Dermot Early Family Award for services to GAA to Pat Mallon at the recent GAA President's Awards at Croke Park in Dublin.

1993 to 2003; having served on the club committee in the interim period he again became Chairman from 2015 to 2017. His present role is as a trustee of the club.

While Philip was spending his energies on behalf of the club, his wife Pat was also heavily involved. Not only was she helping out in various roles, including washing and maintaining the club jerseys, she was the first manager of the club's under 10 team which won the league in 1980. She became a member of the local council during this time and was instrumental in helping the club obtain its own football pitches in 2003. Certainly a very busy household!

This example of volunteerism has also passed on to their children, who apart from playing for their club, have also served on various committees over the years. Christine and the late Helena sold tickets in the early days to raise funds for a growing club as well as helping the girls'

teams, while Paula, involved with ladies football in the club since it's inception, now looks after the 5 to 10 year old girls' teams. Philip (Jnr), Barry and Peter look after the underage boys teams U5 to U10 while moving to the next generation, grandson Dara O'Dufaigh, Club Secretary for the past 3 years has been succeeded in his previous role as club Irish Officer by his father Jude. Stephen, former senior player, who sadly passed away is commemorated by an Under 10 tournament played in his memory.

St Paul's are currently embarking on a new exciting development in the club, all of this drive and energy over the last 50 years plus has helped build a formidable community facility with Gaelic Games activity at the heart of it. Thanks to people like the Mallon family who have been central to it all.



# James Brown and Son Community Fund

James Brown and Sons Funeral Directors have kindly asked that we share information about their Community Fund, which began accepting applications in March and will recommence again in July and November later this year. This year, with the help of relevant partners, they have been able to increase their Community Fund from £20,000 to £25,000.

Funding is available for projects between £300 and £1,500 and groups must be either a Constituted Community Group, Registered charity or Community Interest Company.

Groups such as Men's Minds Matter NI in Tullycarnet, Belfast have benefitted from this fund.

This is a wonderful opportunity for groups to put in for some of the smaller projects that they may have planned.

Sadly, there may be good applications that the Fund will not be able to support because there is not enough money available. Decisions are based on the information you provide in your application, the programme criteria, and outcomes. Professional judgment is used to make the difficult choices between the projects seeking funding and the decision cannot be challenged. If your application is eligible, but not funded at the first attempt, you may reapply.

Grants are available to fund local activities which improve the quality of life of residents and the wider community. Projects must align with one or more of the four fund categories:

1. Health

2. Education
3. Employment opportunities
4. Poverty / Social Deprivation

The Fund aims to support ongoing activities that benefit residents of all ages and priority will be given to:

1. Projects addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged in the local community
2. Projects led by people who can demonstrate a clear understanding of community need and strong connections in that community

Examples of projects that might be funded:

- Health and wellbeing activities for older people e.g., exercise classes
- Literacy or numeracy club
- A charity supporting young people with specialist advice to manage mental health
- Kitchen equipment for a youth project to set up a holiday club
- Supporting a community centre wanting to start a regular lunch club
- A healthy eating project that supports families to cook healthy meals on a budget
- Projects that promote involvement in the local community e.g., volunteering

Examples of projects that cannot be funded:

- Work that has already taken place
- Political donations or promotion of a political cause
- Fundraising activities or challenges
- Running costs and organisation overheads
- Activities which collect funds for redistribution to other charities or individuals
- Overseas appeals
- Marketing promotions
- Research projects
- Projects or activities that the



state has a legal obligation to provide

We applaud James Brown and Sons for their generous donations to our community.

Opening date for applications 3rd July 2023 at 12 noon  
6th November 2023 at 12 noon

Closing date for applications 7th August 2023 at 12 noon  
4th December 2023 at 12 noon

Further information on how to apply can be found by visiting the following link: <https://bit.ly/40n4KCC> and application forms can be downloaded at: <https://bit.ly/42sWrqs>

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# Alterations to the premises of a registered club

## Recent changes to the law

If any registered Club in Northern Ireland is considering making internal changes to its premises, the Committee should be aware that the law has recently changed.

It may now be necessary to apply to the County Court in advance of the work being done for the Court's consent to the changes. The requirement to make a Court application will depend on the nature of the changes.

Until October 2022, there were no specific provisions contained within the Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996 compelling a

registered Club to make an application to the County Court if internal alterations were made to the premises of a Club.

The only provision concerning alterations to Club premises was the requirement to notify the Court at the time of the 5 year renewal of registration as to whether any changes had been made to the Club premises, and, if so, a new plan had to be lodged showing the changes.

The Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 amended many of the provisions of the 1996 Club's



Order. One of the changes made is the introduction of a new clause to the 1996 Order, namely 12A (operative from 1st October 2022) which states that the Consent of the County Court is now required in advance of the alterations being made, if the alteration:

- (a) gives increased facilities for drinking in any part of the premises which contains a bar; or
- (b) adds to any part of the premises which contains a bar or substitutes one such part of the premises for another; or
- (c) conceals from observation a part of the premises in which intoxicating liquor is supplied; or
- (d) affects the means of passage between a part of the premises which contains a bar and the remainder of the premises or any road or other public place.

If any alteration mentioned above is made to Club premises

without the County Court's prior consent, the Court can order the registered club to restore, as far as is practicable, the premises to their original condition within a period fixed by the order. **If the order is not complied with the Club and each official of the Club can be fined.**

If your Club is contemplating making alterations to its premises in the future, the Committee should seek legal advice to determine whether an application to the Court is necessary.

*Shean Dickson Merrick solicitors specialise in Club law and advise over 50 individual registered Clubs in Northern Ireland as well as the NI Federation of Clubs.*



# Out with the old... In with the new!

31st March 2023: The EBRS (Energy Bill Relief Scheme) ends.  
1st April 2023: The EBDS (Energy Bill Discount Scheme) commences

At the end of March, the current EBRS will be replaced by the EBDS (Energy Bills Discount Scheme) which will commence on the 1st of April.

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.

### So, how much discount can a small business expect?

A typical SME business will receive a maximum of 1.9p discount off their kWh rate, however this will be determined by the wholesale market. If the market dips below the Government 'threshold' no discount will be applied. All things considered, the new scheme will make minimal difference to an average unit price.

I cannot speak on behalf of the energy suppliers, but I'm quite happy to vent my own personal opinion, which is that this is only something the

Government has put in place so that they can be seen to be doing something to 'help' small businesses. Given the recent drop in wholesale prices, the reality is that no business will benefit to any great extent from the scheme.

The good news is that prices we are obtaining for clients are the best they have been in over a year, so it is perhaps a good time to carry out a review of your own contracts and unit rates to identify where savings can be made.

If you're considering holding off doing anything in the hope that

prices may dip a little more, I would point this out to you; it can cost you more money over a one or two month bill cycle being out of contract with a supplier than you will save over a 12-month contract term just waiting for prices to drop by another few pence.

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

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Sun 2 April, 4.30pm

**CHELSEA  
LIVERPOOL**  
Tues 4 April, 8pm

**LIVERPOOL  
ARSENAL**  
Sun 9 April, 4.30pm

**MAN UTD  
CHELSEA**  
Sat 22 April, 5.30pm

**ARSENAL  
CHELSEA**  
Sat 29 April, 5.30pm

**LIVERPOOL  
TOTTENHAM**  
Sun 30 April, 4.30pm



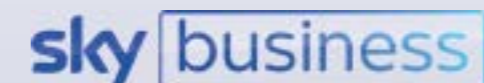
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# Step into spring with Sky Sports

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April gets off to a flyer offering six Premier League fixtures within the first five days of the month, featuring huge games from Man Utd, Spurs, Chelsea, Liverpool and Newcastle.

Pressure is mounting for Arsenal, with Man City seeking to close the gap at the top. And with first pick every matchday weekend, members can come together in your club for four Arsenal fixtures and four Man City fixtures, exclusively live on Sky Sports this April.

There's little to separate teams vying for the Premier League top four, and April sees some of those teams go head-to-head: Newcastle face off against Man Utd on Sunday 2nd April; Sunday 23rd April offers Newcastle v Spurs, while Sunday 30th April sees Liverpool host Spurs. And with a further four Liverpool games; three Man Utd games; three Spurs games and three Newcastle games this month, members can follow all the plot twists in your club.

April also sees the latest instalment in the Old Firm Derby, which always promises to bring drama and an atmosphere like no other to your club. Leaders Celtic host Rangers at Parkhead on Saturday 8th April, with all the thrilling action exclusively live on Sky Sports. As always, there's unmissable action from the EFL and WSL to further add to your club's reputation as the home of football.

With driver rivalries renewed and car modifications announced, the drama of the



Rory McIlroy will be teeing up against Jon Rahm and Scottie Scheffler in an attempt to land his first Masters title.

F1's record 23-race schedule is already underway. You can show every practice, qualifying and Grand Prix live - this month it heads to Australia, and then to Azerbaijan, which will feature the first of six sprint races this season.

Sky Sports remains the home of golf, and April kicks off the packed 2023 golfing calendar with The Masters. Scheffler will be out to retain his crown, but Rory McIlroy is a favourite to win the competition as he resumes his quest to complete a career Grand Slam. The action gets underway on Thursday 6th April, and your club can show all the action across the four-day tournament.

The second men's golf major takes place later in the spring. The world's top golfers will head to the PGA Championship at Oak Hill East Golf Course in New York, and Sky Sports will have all the coverage for your members to enjoy from 18th-21st May.

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:**

|                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday 3rd April.....                | Everton v Spurs - 8.00pm             |
| Tuesday 4th April.....               | Chelsea v Liverpool - 8.00pm         |
| Wednesday 5th April.....             | West Ham v Newcastle Utd- 8.00pm     |
| Thursday 6th - Sunday 9th April..... | Golf Major - The Masters             |
| Saturday 8th April.....              | Celtic v Rangers - 12.30pm           |
| Sunday 9th April.....                | Dundee Utd v Hibernian - 12.00pm     |
| Saturday 15th April.....             | Nottingham Forest v Man Utd - 5.30pm |
| Sunday 16th April.....               | West Ham v Arsenal - 2.00pm          |
|                                      | Man City v Leicester City - 4.30pm   |
| Monday 17th April.....               | Leeds v Liverpool - 8.00pm           |
| Friday 21st April.....               | Arsenal v Southampton - 8.00pm       |
| Saturday 22nd April.....             | Man Utd v Chelsea - 5.30pm           |
| Sunday 23rd April.....               | Newcastle v Spurs - 2.00pm           |
|                                      | Brighton v Man City - 4.30pm         |
| Friday 28th - Sunday 30th April..... | F1 Race Weekend - Azerbaijan         |
| Saturday 29th April.....             | Arsenal v Chelsea - 5.30pm           |
| Sunday 30th April.....               | Fulham v Man City - 2.00pm           |
|                                      | Liverpool v Spurs - 4.30pm           |

## Final part of the Licencing Amendments, regarding drinks promotions, does not apply to registered clubs

Section 20 adds a new Article (57ZB) to the Licensing Order prohibiting licence holders from operating a membership scheme which provides rewards to its members when purchasing intoxicating liquor and allows the member to redeem the rewards to reduce the price of the intoxicating liquor or receive it free of charge.

Operating such a scheme carries a fine of up to £5,000.

We must emphasise the fact that this amendment is only in relation to the licensed sector, and not the club sector, as we operate under the 1996 Registration of Clubs Order.

This new amendment does not affect private member non profit-making clubs in any way.

If you require clarification on this matter, please call us on any of the Helpline numbers.



**Q.** Following a recent VAT inspection, HMRC questioned our practice of not applying VAT on room hire to members or on income from the snooker and pool tables. Can you confirm if we are correct in not applying VAT to these sources of income?

**A.** The club is correct in not applying VAT on these two specific sources of income. The hire of the Club's rooms to members is exempt from VAT and Section 10 of Notice 701/5 Clubs and Associations

refers to this particular matter. The income from snooker and pool tables is also exempt from VAT and Section 3.2 of Notice 701/45 Sport refers to this matter. I suggest you reply to HMRC giving details of the above Notice references and state that the club is not in breach of any VAT payment requirements.

**Q.** Our club has three new trustees who are taking a much more active part in the club's management than the previous trustees had done. In fact, they want to change everything so far as the management procedures are concerned and continuously remind the committee that they 'own the club'. What are the club trustees' duties?

**A.** You will find the main reference to the club trustees' duties within the club's rules. The trustees are officers of

*continued on page 16*

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the club and as such may attend and vote at committee meetings. However, the club is managed by the elective committee acting as a whole and each member's vote has the same value.

If the trustees are required to sign any document on behalf of the club then they can only do so on the instruction of the committee. Whilst the property of the club is vested in the names of the trustees, this does not in any way mean that they 'own' the club. They simply hold it on behalf of the club. You will appreciate that the club is an unincorporated association and as such has no legal identity. The club cannot hold property in the name of the club but must do so in the names of trustees acting on behalf of the club. Ultimately, the club is managed by the club's management committee, which is elected by

the members. No single officer, or officers, has the authority under the rules to overturn decisions of the committee, or to amend club policy without the committee's agreement.

**Q.** A member is questioning the refusal of the Committee to allow him to read the minutes of the meeting. Our AGM is fast approaching and certain members appear to want to propose that the club pass a ruling at the AGM to allow members to read the minutes of all and any meeting.

**A.** Thank you for your email. I confirm that committee meetings are confidential and members do not have a right to inspect minutes of such meetings. May I suggest that any member who is desperate to read committee minutes to consider standing for election to office.

**Q.** Our club runs a free membership draw every

Saturday night for a prize of £10. To win, the member must be in the club. If they are not, the draw gets carried over until the following Saturday whereby a further £10 is added. This is continually increased until won. Is this legal?

**A.** I can confirm that there is nothing wrong with a draw of this nature. As a Private Members' Club you are entitled to run free lotteries of this type as often as you wish. As this is a free draw it does not encounter the usual problem with snowball prizes, in that they may break the 'equal chance' gaming rule. This 'equal chance' gaming rule is concerned with persons who may have contributed to the earlier games but may have no chance of winning the subsequent games. As, in this case, the whole membership list is used every time and no member has risked any money, then this rule is not breached as all members have an equal chance of winning. The fact that a member may not be present in the club when the draw is called does not affect the fairness of the draw. The conditions of the draw make it clear that the person must be present to win a prize and if these conditions are not fulfilled then they forfeit the prize and it is carried over to the next week.

**Q.** Our President is retiring this year and we have not had any nominations to fill the position. Are we able to take nominations from the floor of the AGM? Additionally, once the President steps down at the AGM, who will continue to chair the meeting?

**A.** If no one is proposed for this position then nominations can be taken from the floor. If there are no nominations taken from the floor then the committee can fill this position

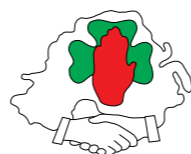
at the first committee meeting after the AGM using the club's casual vacancies rule. The committee can also choose to leave it unfilled until the next AGM.

Once your current President has stepped down then another member of the committee, likely to be the Chairman, can chair the AGM until a new President has been elected. The club can continue with the position of President vacant. Unlike roles such as Secretary and Treasurer, whilst the President is an important figurehead, they do not have too many specific functions assigned to them so if this position remains vacant until a suitable candidate is found then it is unlikely to cause immediate day-to-day problems regarding the running of the club.

**Q.** We have received a letter of complaint from a member who would like it read out at our AGM. We do not consider that this constitutes a valid agenda item. Do you agree?

**A.** You are correct that this request is not a legitimate motion and therefore cannot be included on the agenda of the AGM. I suggest that you treat this complaint as a letter to the committee and put the letter before the committee at the committee meeting. The committee can then decide how they wish to reply. The committee could decide to reference the points raised in one of the reports given by the committee at the AGM.

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



# Annual general meeting procedure

## Notice

Every meeting must be properly summoned by the Secretary, either by sending a notice to all members entitled to attend or by display of announcement on the notice board. Length of notice should be stated in the rules.

## Agenda

Every member should receive an agenda. This is frequently incorporated with the notice of the meeting. It should be concise and clearly set out. When a motion has been tabled, exact wording should be given. 'Any other business' should not appear on the agenda for a General Meeting.

## Quorum

There must be a quorum present at a meeting to enable business to be transacted. The number should be laid down in the rules. If a quorum is not present within a reasonable time of the hour appointed for the meeting, the meeting is automatically adjourned. No quorum is required for an AGM, unless the rules state otherwise.

## Meeting Chairman

The President should preside ex officio; in his absence the Chairman presides, and failing him the Vice-Chairman. If neither is present, the meeting elects its own Chairman. In such cases the Secretary or convener of the meeting should ask for nominations. No seconder is needed. If more than one nomination is received, the names should be put in alphabetical order and the person receiving the highest number of votes takes the Chair at once.

The primary duty of a Chairman is to decide who is entitled to address the meeting,

and to maintain order. He must not allow any discussion unless it bears directly on the subject under discussion. He should allow no member to speak when the mover of a motion or amendment has resumed his seat, unless such member rises to second the resolution or amendment under discussion. The Chairman's decision on all points of order is final. If his directions are disobeyed, he should declare the meeting adjourned, and quit the Chair.

## Validity of Meeting

The first business of the Chairman is to call on the Secretary to read the notice summoning the meeting or alternatively to ask if it shall 'be taken as read' by consent.

## Confirmation of Minutes

The Chairman should next call upon the Secretary to read the Minutes of the previous meeting. After they have been read and before any question or discussion is allowed, the Chairman must ask for the motion: That the Minutes are confirmed as a true record of the previous meeting. Once this has been duly moved, seconded and agreed, the Chairman signs the Minutes close to the last line, thereby preventing subsequent additions. No one should be allowed to discuss the business recorded in the previous Minutes; the only matter on which discussion can take place is whether they are an accurate report of the previous meeting. Questions can now be asked to ascertain whether the resolutions recorded in the minutes have been carried out and any motion not hostile to, or varying such resolutions, may be accepted by the Chairman. If anyone desires to amend or



rescind any of the resolutions, due notice must be given for inclusion in the agenda for the next meeting.

## Business for which the Meeting was Convened

This must be transacted in the order in which it appears on the agenda. The order cannot be changed except with the consent of a three-quarters majority of the members voting.

## Motions

A motion should be moved by the person named on the agenda, unless the meeting agrees to some other person moving it. No discussion on any motion should be permitted until it has been seconded. If the motion is not seconded it lapses, and the Chairman should proceed to the next business. A motion may be withdrawn by the proposer either before or during discussion, with the permission of the seconder and of the meeting. Such a withdrawal cannot take place after the motion has been voted on.

## Amendments

An amendment is a proposal to alter the wording of a motion.

More than one amendment may be put forward on any one motion, but only one may be discussed at a time. An amendment must have a bearing on the subject of the motion; it should not be a direct negative, since it is open to anyone who is totally opposed to the motion to speak and vote against it. Like a motion, an amendment must be proposed and seconded before it can be discussed. The withdrawal of an amendment is carried out in the same way as that of a motion.

## Voting

After an amendment has been discussed, the Chairman should read out the motion and the amendment. He should ask 'those in favour' of the amendment to show hands and then 'those against.' If an amendment is carried, it becomes the 'substantive motion,' that is to say it replaces the motion in its original form and becomes the subject before the meeting for further discussion and amendment. At the close of the debate the motion is put to the vote, either in its original form or as amended.

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# It's time to shine

## How to make the most of your outdoor space in summer

Nothing says better weather quite like a beer garden - and as we welcome British Summer Time, now is the perfect time to start thinking about how to utilise your outdoor space to make the most out of the coming seasons ahead.

Winner of the 2022 Best Pub Garden award, George Greenaway from the Tamworth Tap, who are also the current CAMRA pub of the year - alongside PPL PRS, the organisation responsible for issuing TheMusicLicence for businesses who use music, share their thoughts on the best ways to enhance the atmosphere and make the most out of outdoor spaces in the coming months ahead.

### Pay attention to detail

The details of an outdoor space can be just as important as indoors, if not more - which is why it is important to get them right and create a space that suits both your brand and surroundings. This could be anything from floral displays and hanging baskets, to a fairy-lit alley and candles on each of

the tables, which help to create the perfect atmosphere and add the finishing touch that customers are looking for.

### Keep your customers entertained

Events can be one of the best ways to bring people into the town and are a great way to attract customers, old and new. Popular ideas include ale and cider festivals, live music events and Belgian beer tasting, all of which can give people a reason to go out and may be why they choose your business over others.

### Remember to consider the atmosphere

As with any space, the ambience is key, which means, paying particular attention to music genre and lighting is critical. Ambient lighting can help to enhance certain areas of a garden, while playing music, particularly a style that reflects a brand can help to enhance the experience and create a space people enjoy. As George explains, "we have so many comments on how customers have enjoyed the playlists even

asking where they can buy the CD. I'm certain we keep customers a little longer as they can't leave because of the music. It's unique to our venue and evokes positive reaction from tourists and locals alike."

### Know your audience

Less is always more, which means that when thinking about your outdoor space, it is important to have a theme and ensure to make the decor and surroundings relevant to the local area. This way you avoid alienating any potential demographic and can ensure you create an atmosphere that is welcoming and appealing to both your customers and your staff.



For more hint and tips on how to enhance the atmosphere and create the perfect outdoor space in your club this summer, visit: <https://pplprs.co.uk/success-stories/the-tamworth-tap/>



# Make sure your club rule book is up to date

Clubs and organisations rely on a clear set of rules and guidelines to operate effectively. These rules are typically contained in a rule book or constitution, and it is crucial to maintain and update them regularly. Clear rules provide guidance on membership, governance, and decision-making processes, preventing confusion and disputes that could lead

to the breakdown of your organisation. Moreover, updating your rule book ensures compliance with any relevant laws or regulations, avoiding legal liability and reputational damage.

Regular reviews of your rule book is also essential to ensure that your organisation remains relevant and effective.

Over time, the needs and interests of your organisation and its members may change, and the rules and guidelines that were once appropriate may no longer be sufficient. By reviewing and updating your rule book regularly, your organisation can adapt to these changes, meet the needs of your members, and continue to operate effectively.

In conclusion, maintaining up-to-date rule books is crucial for all clubs and organisations to thrive and make a positive impact in your community. By prioritising the maintenance of your rule book, your organisation can provide clarity and guidance to your members, comply with laws and regulations, and remain relevant and effective.

1

## ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

Music could help set the tone, boost the mood and create a more upbeat atmosphere.

2

## CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

3

## STAND OUT FROM THE COMPETITION

4

## EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Music could help to engage your staff with your business, promote engagement and collaboration and improve morale.

5

## SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF MUSIC

By purchasing TheMusicLicence, you are supporting the future of music by helping to ensure that its creators are fairly paid for their work.

6

## CUSTOMER LOYALTY AND RETENTION

# 10 benefits music can have on your club!

You can discover our final four benefits on how music could benefit your club by visiting our website.

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# Entertainer and vocalist, David Hamilton talks to Nigel



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

This month, it gives me great pleasure to share details on the musical career of my good friend David Hamilton, a vocalist and entertainer with a great personality and stage presence.

At our last interview at Belfast 89FM, when asked where it all began, David said, "My interest in music began at a very early age as I had a great love for musicals. My first stage appearance was at the age of 12 years at a school musical. Later, I began to play keyboards and my first band gig was with a 4-piece band called Volume Road; my first song with them was Words by the Bee Gees, and I even got paid!"

When I asked him if there were favourite venues in his memory, David replied, "They were all fantastic. I played a few memorable gigs in the Pound Club in 1968, Betty Staffs, Cecil Clarkes, Sammy Hustons, and the Astor Club in Castle Street, plus many more too numerous to mention.

"In the early 70s I played with the band Mash, whose members included, Raymond Donnan, Terry Holland, and Mr Sticks himself, Brendan O'Neill. I had great times and gigs at the Boat House Stranmillis. Brendan O'Neill went on to join Rory Gallagher.

"In 1973 the band Chaser was formed featuring myself, Billy McCoy, Mike Brown, and Billy Bell, and later Gordon Thompson from the rock band Clouds, and we stayed together for a number of years. In 1976 I joined the musical Jesus Christ Super Star, playing the part of Simon the Zealot. It was there I met Candy Devine, who was playing the part of Mary Magdalene. We were to be friends on the cabaret scene for many years, enjoying musicals such as Tonight at Eight, and

a musical review of the 30s/40s at the Culloden Hotel and the Arts Theatre.

"I became a member of Equity, and worked on the BBC with some big names such as the late John Thaw and Timothy West in Harry's Kingdom. More television work followed, The Entertainers, and others on BBC Television and Radio Ulster.

"Working with the John Anderson Big Band was a dream for me, sharing the stage with fantastic musicians such as John Wilson on drums, and Nick Scott on bass, to name only a few. I was asked to perform at the Silver Jubilee, from the Culloden Hotel on UTV with Candy Devine, Francis Campbell, Trevor Kelly and Crawford Bell, and the John Anderson Big Band."

David still appears in cabaret, mainly at corporate events, and in recent years joined the PM Big Band; they do an amazing show. I have been in the audience on quite a few occasions with my wife Lily, and can certainly recommend the entertainment to anyone.

David told me, "I get great enjoyment singing with this 22 piece swing band, the lovely vocalist Ceara Grehan, and their extremely talented Musical Director, John Mitchell, who is one of the best saxophonists I have ever heard.



"My son Paul 'Hammy' Hamilton has his own recording studio, and is an accomplished drummer/percussionist in his own right. He has toured with many big names, such as Elton John and Ed Sheeran, in fact it was through Paul, while touring with Foy Vance, that I met Ed Sheeran on a number of occasions, and was invited for drinks after a few concerts. Paul has been to his house on a number of occasions and Ed is a true gentleman and very down to earth."

To conclude, I wish David many more years doing what he enjoys and does best in entertainment, and to his son Paul 'Hammy' Hamilton, a long and successful career.

Thank you,  
Nigel

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# Get Your Club Involved

Could your club help us in our work supporting local people with chest, heart and stroke illnesses?

Whether you are the captain of a golf club, play on a football team, or are a member of a social society, we would love your support to help us fund our life-saving services.

## Ardglass GAA

Ardglass GAC partnered with us as part of their Healthy Clubs initiative. The club raised over £1,500 for our services and raised awareness of heart conditions in their community, following the sudden passing of one of their members.

## Cycling Club

Last year, North Down Cycling Club took part in the Killinchy 100 cycle which raised £1,600!

## Clandeboyne Golf Club

Clandeboyne Golf Club's Lady Captain chose NICHS as her charity of choice last year and raised an amazing £2,320 throughout her year!

## Healthy Hikers

This summer the Healthy Hikers walking group took on the epic Mourne Wall Challenge and walked an incredible 22 miles, raising over £10,000 for us!

Get in touch with our fundraising team to find out how your club can get involved!



## Kevin Murphy Day

Earlier this year various sports clubs, including Spirees Cycling Club, Magherafelt Harriers, and O'Donovan Rossa GAC, all came together to bike, swim or run as part of the Kevin Murphy In-Memory event for NICHS



# NI Football Writers' Awards

## Larne make it a one - two in February



Delighted Larne midfielder, Leroy Millar, with his NIFWA Player of the Month Award.

Larne Football Club midfielder Leroy Millar is the Dream Spanish Homes Player of the Month for February.

level I think I've had a decent enough month, but more importantly the team has had a good month.

Millar had a sublime month as Larne defeated Glenavon, Dungannon Swifts, Cliftonville, Ballymena United and Carrick Rangers in the league, as well as knocking Linfield out of the Irish Cup. The former Ballymena man weighed in with three goals in February for the league leaders.

"We've won all our games, we're still in the Irish Cup and we're six points clear at the top of the league - you can't ask for better than that.

"But it's still early days yet. We need to dig in and show a strong mentality if we're to win silverware. Any of the top six can still win the league. It shows just how good the product here is."

Millar said, "I'm delighted to win this award. On a personal

Harland & Wolff Welders Football Club goalkeeper, Michael Argyrides, has been named Championship Player of the Month for February by the Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association.

The Canadian shot-stopper joined the Welders on loan from Glentoran in January, and made an immediate impact. In February he



Larne Manager, Tiernan Lynch, collects his Manager of the Month Award from NIFWA Chairwoman, Ruth Gorman.

Larne Football Club's Tiernan Lynch was named Reavey Solicitors Manager of the Month for February by the Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association.

The Inver Reds finished February unbeaten, with league wins over Glenavon, Dungannon Swifts, Cliftonville, Ballymena United and Carrick Rangers. League leaders Larne also knocked Linfield out of the Irish Cup via a penalty shootout.

Lynch said, "It's an honour to collect this award. I'd like to thank the Football Writers' and their sponsors Reavey Solicitors.

conceded just one goal, keeping clean sheets against Glenavon, Ards, Annagh United and Newington.

He said, "I was gutted when I conceded against Knockbreda (in a 7-1 victory) because I wanted to finish the month

"However, the award isn't just about me. It's an award won by all the staff and the players.

"Thankfully, things like individual awards don't phase me. I'm not the sort of person to get carried away. Sometimes I get very low after a defeat, but I never get carried away after success.

"We will keep our cool and focus on the games ahead, because there is still plenty of football to be played."

It's the fifth time that Lynch has won the prestigious monthly prize.

without letting in a single goal.

"But winning this award makes up for it. I'm just pleased I've been able to help the team improve. We're keeping clean sheets and winning games. It's a great thing to be part of."

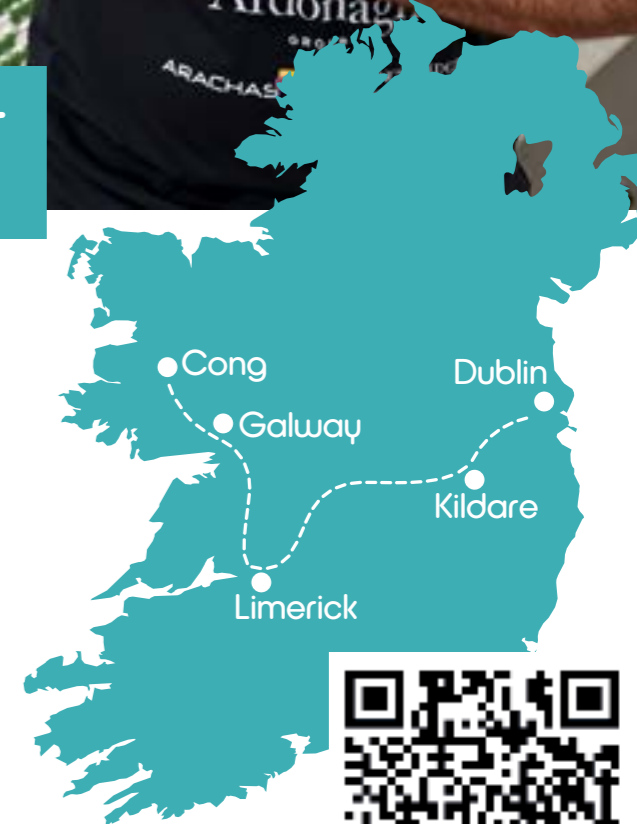


## Going the distance for children with cancer

On 16th May former Ireland and Ulster Rugby captain and Cancer Fund for Children Ambassador, **Rory Best** will take on a 10 day walking challenge from the Aviva Stadium in Dublin to the site of our new therapeutic short break centre, Daisy Lodge in Cong, Co. Mayo.

This challenge will see Rory travel through seven counties and cover over 300km, to raise vital funds to help ensure children don't have to face cancer alone.

To find out how your club can get involved and support Rory visit: [rorysmiles2mayo.com](http://rorysmiles2mayo.com) or scan the QR code



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