

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

Review Club

VOLUME 36 - Issue 3, 2023



**MAGNERS MOMENTS
BEGIN WITH A BEE**



be drinkaware.co.uk

WHEN TIME BEARS FRUIT

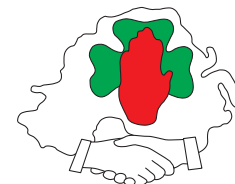
The Federation Invite New Members to Join

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

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

07889 800329 - 07889 800331 - 07889 800325 & 07889 681714

N.I. Federation of Clubs Membership Application Form



Name of club:

Address:

Telephone No:

Fax No:

Club Officers

Chairman:

Tel:

Secretary:

Tel:

Treasurer:

Tel:

The annual membership fee is £50.00 payable to:

The Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs

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

For telephone queries call:
07889 681714

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

For administration purposes only

Accepted by: Secretary

Seconded by: Chairman

Date:

STANDING ORDER TO N.I. FEDERATION OF CLUBS

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

A/C No:

Sort Code:

Bank:

To account no: 627 998 63

Sort code: 95-01-45

**Danske Bank
Belfast BT1 6JS**

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

Club Name:

Address:

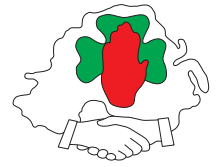
Authorised by: (1)

(2)

Please sign and return to:

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

Please utilise your Federation approved suppliers where possible



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



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

In today's business world, it is essential to ensure that your club is not only successful but that it also operates legally and ethically within the requirements of legislation.

One of the most important ways to achieve this is by using the services of the Federation's approved suppliers.

These approved suppliers not only support your Federation, ensuring that Club Review continues to provide a valuable means of information, but being approved means that they meet all the standards and requirements set by their relevant industry body in their field of expertise.

Obviously, one of the many benefits to using a Federation approved supplier means we can intercede in the unlikely event of a problem of some kind. Therefore, it gives you

peace of mind knowing that you're working with not only a trusted supplier but one that is supporting the club sector.

In essence, you can be confident that the products or services you receive meet the necessary quality standards and are free from any legal or ethical concerns.

It is not the first time that one of our suppliers has discovered that work carried out by another supplier has not met current health and safety requirements. Therefore, you can rely on our approval to know that you're working with a supplier who meets the necessary requirements.

When you work with suppliers who are known for their compliance and ethical practices, it sends a positive message to your members, guests and employees alike.

It also shows that you're committed to operating in a responsible and sustainable manner and that you take compliance seriously.

Members will be aware that the Federation annual subscription has not increased since the Federation was established, something which can only be sustained by our members supporting those businesses which support our sector.

So we encourage you to please afford consideration to this in respect to all suppliers, whether they provide your beverages, food, refurbishment, legal and many

other facets of your supply chain.

Ultimately, choosing suppliers that align with the Federation's values can also improve the club's reputation and help attract more members and guests.

By prioritising compliance and ethical practices, clubs will establish themselves as leaders in the industry and set a positive example for others to follow.

So, when selecting suppliers, it's important to consider the long-term impact and benefits of working with those who share similar values and goals.



stocktaking.com
Professional stock auditors

**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
E: enquiries@stocktaking.com

Beresford House, 2 Beresford Road, Coleraine BT52 1HE

Qualified members of the Institute of Licensed Trade Stock Auditors

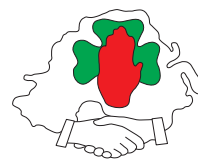
N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

07889 800329
07889 681714
07889 800325
07763 835449 (North West)



E-mail: info@nifederationofclubs.com

Minutes of the Executive Meeting



Hosted by the West Belfast Social Club
on Wednesday 29th March 2023

The meeting was opened, following which the Secretary read the minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2023 in Harland & Wolff Welders FSC, which were subsequently passed as a true record by Philip Mallon and Gerry Gallagher.

A query received from a member club was related to a member lodging a complaint about harassment from a guest. Following a discussion on the matter with the Chairman, the club representative was informed that the guest does not have rights and that any correspondence from a solicitor should not be replied to.

A number of calls are being received regarding Phase 5 of the Licensing Amendments which relate to promotions and club cards which provide benefits to members in respect to discounts etc. It should be noted that the ban on such things only applies to licensed premises, whereas registered clubs operate under a registration rather than a license.

It was confirmed by the Secretary that he had forwarded correspondence to government and suppliers, requesting consideration when invitations to various events are being extended. It is perceived that the Federation are being overlooked throughout the year and not

being afforded appropriate recognition, particularly given the size and importance of the registered club sector.

As reported in the previous minutes, the Chairman had assisted the Treasurer in streamlining the financial report in respect to receipt of statements etc., which will make things much easier for the Treasurer going forward.

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

provide a valuable service for members. In most cases we are pleased to be able to address queries promptly, with others satisfied with correspondence being sent via email.

The Secretary was pleased to inform the meeting that new applications for Federation membership have been received, with further enquiries for information also coming in.

At this point the meeting was brought to a close by thanking Harland & Wolff Welders FSC for their hospitality.

Harry Beckinsale
Secretary

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



Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Hosted by the Felons Club, Belfast, on Wednesday 26th April 2023



The Chairman opened the meeting, following which the Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting held in West Belfast Social Club.

Details of calls received in respect to Phase 5 continue to be received.

The Secretary provided details of some of the calls and the confusion in respect to the difference between licensed premises and registered clubs.

Joe asked if we had received word back from the club which enquired about what can be done if a neighbour complains about noise etc.

The Secretary updated members on the legislation pertaining to a club failing to renew its registration. One club had been informed that they were not permitted to open as their Registration had lapsed.

However, upon advice we are pleased to confirm, that providing the court and council do not object, the club can renew within the twelve month period following the lapse of their registration. The club referred to were informed by the PSNI that they could not open.

However, upon examining the detail of the Legislation and providing the Court and Council do not object, Article 9 does not require the Club to close.

The next meeting will be notified as soon as possible.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the management committee of the Felons Club for hosting today's meeting and for the hospitality provided.

Harry Beckinsale
Secretary

Reduction in duty announced

The Budget announced by Chancellor Jeremy Hunt on Wednesday, March 15th will see an increase in tax relief on draught beer and cider sold in the On-Trade from 1st August.

Draught relief will increase from 5% to 9.2% meaning that the duty on draught products in clubs and pubs will be up to 11p lower than the duty in supermarkets.

However, the Chancellor also announced a 10.1% rise in duty on other drinks, including bottled beer, wines and spirits.

This comes ahead of the planned introduction of a new duty system in August which will see drinks taxed according to their ABV, with stronger drinks taxed more heavily.

Much to the dismay of clubs and the wider hospitality industry, the Chancellor did not include any reductions in VAT or announce any further help for venues in the area of increasing energy costs in his announcement. Indeed, in the wake of the Spring Budget, a petition was launched on the official Parliament website

calling for the current 20% VAT rate to be halved for the hospitality industry. The petition states: "As an industry, we face unprecedented hurdles. Wages have increased 20%; food prices have risen by 8.5%; utilities have doubled; with rates also increased, we have other higher debts and payments coming out of the pandemic.

"This presents a perfect storm of costs that just can't be absorbed. We must reduce VAT to 10% to help us weather this unprecedented storm.

"This rate should be extended to: hot food; soft drinks; hot drinks; events and door tickets; accommodation and attractions."

At the time of writing, the petition, which was available to sign until May 7th, had gathered only 18,366 signatures but needed 100,000 signatures to be considered for debate by MPs in Parliament.

Despite the threshold not being reached, we nevertheless hope that those in the Treasury give consideration to a measure of this type in the near future.

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.

M **McCONNELL**
CHARTERED SURVEYORS & PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

028 90 205 900
www.mcconnellproperty.com

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 • Business Advisory Service
- Taxation & Self Assessment • Payroll & VAT
- Book-keeping • Registered Charities & Community Groups Advisory Service



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

T: 028 9030 9550 • F: 028 9060 1445
Email: lawrence@oharashearer.com

The P&F Group

Helping financial pressures...

Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, social clubs, along with other aspects of the hospitality sector, have found themselves under great financial pressure since reopening.

Customers are down, income is reduced, and all the overheads are increasing. For all businesses it has now become more important than ever to attract more custom and revenue into their premises. One of the best and most effective ways to increase this is through your venue's amusement and gaming equipment. Clubs often overlook the potential extra income available by having the correct equipment installed. Having the best terms for the

latest and most up-to-date equipment is a must for any club to achieve this goal.

Whether your club already has, or never has had equipment, with over 40 years' experience in this sector, we at P&F Amusements are confident that we can help increase both your player appeal and income.

All our equipment is the latest available, with some only supplied by ourselves, and most of which is brand new, all covered by our 7 day a week service (we always carry large stock of new equipment).

Having been an approved supplier to the N.I.F.C. for

many years now, we are giving special introductory terms for member clubs, such as free time, advance sponsorship payments, free equipment, (TVs, Big Screens, Music Systems) etc.

We know that sometimes it is hard for managers and committee members to visualise this equipment by just speaking to a sales person or looking at pictures, so we at P&F are again going one step further to help accommodate you.

We would like to INVITE your club representatives to come to our showroom to see and play the latest equipment available to your club. Have a chat with us, and we will even supply

the drinks and snacks while discussing how we can help your club to move forward and increase its income.

We appreciate that sometimes managers and committees are not all available during normal hours but we will work around any days or hours to accommodate you.

Telephone:
028 9037 0314 or email:
sales@pandfamusements.com
where one of our friendly receptionists will organise a day and time that suits you best to visit us and explore the options available.



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
W: www.pandfamusements.com

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



DRINKS INC.

hello
Summer



Blended and bottled in N.I.

Based on Yellow Man candy made famous by the Auld Lamas-Fair in Ballycastle!



Available in 200ml, 750ml & 1.5L



Rosé All Summer Long!



Strawberry flavoured cream liqueur, with a splash of Tequila!



New shake and serve cocktail range.



Cocktail Keg Co. Simply chill, shake and serve!



Natural, premium, Swedish cider. Fruity and refreshing!

Shake Baby Shake Easy to drink, on-the-go cocktails!



The nation's top-selling canned wine.



Classic Italian aperitivo spritz in a can!



KEY
 Vegan Wine
 Organic Wine

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR DRINKS INC. REP

T: 028 9066 7744 E: orders@drinksinc.com

Legislation achieves Federation goal

The Federation are delighted to announce that we have achieved the majority of our wishes, which will ease what was a very strict set of requirements.

You will notice our reference to sports clubs etc.

In Northern Ireland, a registered club which has space of at least 20% allocated to a sporting or leisure activity on the Rating Agencies list of activities will enjoy an 80% rating reduction of that percentage and additionally will enjoy a sports registration which provides a Sky Television tariff based on the rates applied to the social area ie:- the total rates less the amount discounted for the area allocated to sport/leisure.

Prior to these amendments, a sports registration also nullified the need for a children's certificate.

Amendments which relate to registered clubs include:-

- A) Removal of restricted opening hours at Easter.
- B) Removal of restrictions on late opening on Sunday.
- C) Extension of drinking-up time.
- D) Increase in the number of authorisations for special occasions.
- E) Removal of Children's Certificates.

OPENING HOURS

The number of late extensions to 1am increased to 104 occasions annually.

EASTER OPENING HOURS

No restriction on opening hours and late extensions can also be applied for. Any restrictions around Easter weekend will be removed, so

normal permitted hours and late extensions will apply.

CHILDREN'S CERTIFICATES

No longer required. Children permitted in a registered club until 9pm or 9.30pm if they, or the person they are with, have consumed a meal ordered before 9pm.

In a registered sports club this is extended until 10pm and to 11pm during the months 1st May to 30th September if in the company of a guardian.

DRINKING-UP TIME

Extended to 1 hour.

JUNIOR SPORTS PRESENTATION EVENINGS

A total of three events can be hosted per annum – they don't have to be specifically for juniors, but juniors can attend up to 3 awards ceremonies in any year and remain on the premises until 11pm.

SPORTING & CULTURAL EVENTS

From 3 to a maximum of 6, such events can be held annually, with the club registration being permitted for use on the club's associated sports grounds. These are referred to as extension authorisations.

In general, each authorisation is for 1 day, but Police have power to allow a single authorisation to apply to more than 1 day, up to a maximum of 5.

A late extension can be applied for on these occasions.

The amendments agreed will require approval for alterations to a club premises to be sought from the court, in the same way

licensed premises have to seek approval in advance of altering their premises.

Restrictions on permitted hours and late nights on any Sunday will be removed with Sunday's permitted hours being the same as any other day.

A young person will be able to remain on the premises to attend a private function after 9pm, provided they are in the company of a parent/guardian.

An underage event can be carried on in a registered club provided no alcohol is available and a number of conditions are met.

Provision of alcohol by self-service or vending machine will be prohibited.

Advertisements are now permitted outside of the club with the following addition at the bottom of the said advertisement - 'Members and Guests Welcome'.

This does not apply to charitable or benevolent functions where the entire proceeds are devoted to those purposes.

PHASE 5 of the LICENSING AMENDMENTS

This refers to promotions in Licensed premises, which of course excludes registered clubs.

The means by which alcohol is provided in a registered club is on the basis that when a club member passes money/payment for the product, he or she is giving the money to replace that which they already own.

Additionally while a registered club pays VAT, it does not pay income tax as it makes surpluses rather than profits.



ACCOUNTS REGULATIONS

These regulations provide for small and medium sized clubs which will not require preparation by a professional body.

Small Club

Max Income £300k

Medium Club

Max of £500k

The above is not related to this Bill but rather is a feature in the amended Accounts Regulations as a result of the 2011 Act.

What are the rules on bank holidays?

On the approach to the coronation of King Charles, we received several queries from clubs asking what the rules were regarding bank holidays.

The coronation of King Charles III was held on Saturday 6th May 2023. The Government confirmed that this celebration would be marked with an additional bank holiday which fell on Monday 8th May 2023.

Currently in the UK there are already two recognised bank holidays in May, the first Monday in May and the last Monday in May, which many businesses tend to close on. The announcement of the additional public holiday meant that businesses could be closed for three Mondays in May, which then posed questions like:

- Does everyone get the day off?
- How will it impact my business?
- Do I have to close?

Firstly, the public holiday was Monday 8th May and not Saturday 6th, when the coronation took place. Therefore, businesses were under no obligation to let their staff take the day off if they were usually working or scheduled a shift for that day. If staff wished to take it off, they should have done so through normal annual leave request procedures and should have been treated as first come first served.

So, do you have to give your staff the day off for the public holiday?

In the UK, staff do not have the automatic legal right to take a bank/public holiday

off, it all really depends on the wording in their contract.

For example, your contract might say:

- Staff are entitled to 20 days plus all the public and bank holidays - this would give the contractual automatic right to the additional day. This is due to your contract not specifying days they have to take.

Or let's say your contract says:

- 28 days including the public/bank holidays - this would give the contractual automatic right to the additional day. This is due to your contract not specifying days they can take; however, as you have stipulated, they are only entitled to 28 days, the additional day would be taken out of their 28 day entitlement meaning they would have few days of annual leave to use.

The wording in the contract could also state:

- 20 days plus or including 8 public holidays and name the public holidays the business recognises - this would not give an employee the contractual right to the public holidays as the business has listed the dates they recognise as closure days. It would be at the business's discretion to close on this day and give the staff a paid day off or have them take their annual leave.

If you wish for your employees to work the public holiday and it's a contractual day off, then you will need to seek their agreement to do so in exchange for a day in lieu to be used at another time.

If you have more questions or are still unsure on where your business stands with upcoming bank/public holidays, you can contact the HR specialists at Lockton.



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



Shannen Lyons
HR Consultant
T: +44 (0)289 034 8422
M: +44 (0)7721 483 220
E: shannen.lyons@lockton.com

Trading as
E+E Gaming
AVA LEISURE

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF GAMING

Major supplier in Northern Ireland
with over 40 years experience

FRUIT MACHINES
POKER & CLUB MACHINES
AIR HOCKEY & POOL TABLES
CD/DIGITAL JUKEBOXES
LARGE SCREEN TVS/PLASMAS
KIDDIE RIDES/VIDEOS

For more information call Scott
07810 743 164
365 days a year call out service available
AVA Leisure
14 Prince Regent Road
Belfast BT5 6QR



Q. The committee suspended a member last year for twelve months, but this year we have decided we do not want to accept his membership renewal. Are we in order to make this decision?

A. It is a requirement for a suspended member to renew their membership during their suspension. The committee is obliged to accept the renewal of membership.

The suspended member will be able to use the club again once their suspension has ended.

I suggest that if the committee had wanted to expel this member, then they should have decided to expel the person rather than suspend them. A suspension is a technical decision which allows the member to use the club once the suspension has ended. The committee therefore must accept a membership payment from this person if offered.

Q. I am a committee member at my local club, and I was recently asked by a club member what the take was for the night. I do not believe the member is entitled to this information. Am I correct?

A. You are correct in your view. Members receive the accounts each year at the AGM but are not entitled to any financial information outside of the AGM period. Also, it would be unusual for the committee to break down so specifically the takings for specific nights in question. Financial aspects such as this are the exclusive purview of the club's elected committee. If this person wishes to become more involved in the running of the club, perhaps he will be encouraged to stand for election to the committee at a future AGM.

Q. I am a club secretary and receive an honorarium. Do I have to pay tax on this?

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

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

returns which include their other earnings.

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

Q. Our club rules state that when a member has failed to pay their subscription, after 14 days, the secretary will write to them, and once this has happened, if they have still not paid their subscription within 14 days, they will cease to be club members. Does the secretary have an obligation to write to the members concerned immediately after 14 days has elapsed, or can the committee decide to wait to send out these 'final' letters?

A. The rules are silent on when these 'final' letters should be sent, only stating that they cannot be sent until the initial 14 days has elapsed from the date when the subscription fee became due. Therefore, the committee can decide to hold off sending the final letter to allow a bit more time for members to pay their subscription fee.

Q. I have served on the club's committee for a number of years and my daughter is the stewardess of my club. The committee are in the process of negotiating a new contract with the stewardess, and the

committee have requested that I leave the meetings when this matter is being discussed due to 'vested interest.' I can find no rule in the club's rulebook regarding this matter.

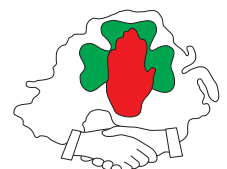
A. The club's committee are entirely correct in requesting you to not participate in discussions or vote on matters relating to your daughter's employment with the club. Clearly there is a vested interest in view of your family relationship with the employee. You are correct that there is no specific rule regarding this matter since the subject of vested interest is one which is standard accepted management practice.

I do not think that you should view the request for you to leave committee meetings as a personal reflection on yourself.

The club are not saying that you personally would be unable to separate your role as a committee member acting on behalf of the club with the fact that you are the employee's father. It is simply a case of sound management procedure, and it is important not to create a precedent whereby committees of the future find it difficult to impose the vested interest scenario on the grounds that they made an exception in your case.

I would advise you to accept the committee's decision in respect of this matter which is both correct and appropriate.

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



Entertainment Licence Renewals Electrical Inspections Fire Risk assessments

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

THIS IS ATLANTIC *refreshment*

THIS IS ROCKSHORE



ROCKSHORETM
IRISH LAGER

UNMISSABLE LIVE ACTION FOR YOUR MEMBERS



sky sports

THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE SPORT TO HELP BRING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN YOUR CLUB

Upcoming live action includes:



**ARSENAL
BRIGHTON**

Sun 14 May, 4.30pm

**LEICESTER
LIVERPOOL**

Mon 15 May, 8pm

**NEWCASTLE
BRIGHTON**

Thurs 18 May, 7.30pm

**MAN CITY
CHELSEA**

Sun 21 May, 4pm

**BRIGHTON
MAN CITY**

Wed 24 May, 8pm

**MAN UTD
CHELSEA**

Thurs 25 May, 8pm



**EMILIA-
ROMAGNA
GRAND PRIX**

19 - 21 May

**MONACO
GRAND PRIX**

26 - 28 May

**SPAIN
GRAND PRIX**

2 - 4 June

**TALK TO US TODAY ABOUT
ADDING LIVE SPORT TO YOUR CLUB**

08442 411 528

sky business

Electricity & gas prices

The current state of play

At the end of March, the EBRIS (Energy Bill Relief Scheme) ended and was replaced by the EBDS (Energy Bills Discount Scheme).

Some businesses have benefited from very good discounts over the past six months, however others have not. EBRIS discounts were dependant on a

number of factors such as the supplier, contract status and type of contract.

This new scheme, in my own opinion, is just the Government being seen to be doing something to help SMEs, when in reality, if wholesale energy prices remain at the level they currently are, a typical small business will not

benefit to any great extent from the new scheme.

The good news is that prices have dropped very significantly over recent months, meaning we are obtaining prices cheaper than we have seen in over a year. Given the horrendous prices we all witnessed over the past year or so, **it's a perfect**

time to carry out a review of your club's energy contracts.

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

**Email: mark@mjutilities.com
Tel: 0777 699 4807**



TRANS⁴MATION UPHOLSTERY

SEATING & UPHOLSTERY MANUFACTURERS

T 028 9186 1656 | M 07515 901 288
E trans4mation-upholstery@hotmail.co.uk

H&W Welders FSC, Belfast

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

Reduce Your Club's Electric & Gas Bills

MJ Utilities

077 7699 4807
mark@mjutilities.com
www.mjutilities.com

Score big with Sky Sports

The ultimate destination for sports fans

This May, Sky Sports will bring you and your members all the action from the final games of the 2022/23 Premier League season, while golf's finest head to the Oak Hill Country Club for the second golfing major of the year - the US PGA Championship.

And if that's not enough, there's more top-flight football from the EFL and Scottish Premiership, three F1 race days, live action from the Premier League Darts and so much more.

The Premier League title race is going down to the wire, while the battle to avoid relegation is turning into a blockbuster with some huge back-to-back fixtures between now and the season finale on Sunday 28th May.

As well as an unmissable line-up of live football, Sky Sports has a packed calendar of world-class sporting events including The Ryder Cup, The Open, The Ashes, F1 and so much more to keep your members entertained and spending more in your venue this summer.

To make sure you're making the most of sport in your venue, check in to [MySkySports.com](https://www.myskysports.com) for everything you'll need to make promoting live sport quick and easy.

Here are our top three reasons to visit this month:

- 1. Coming up in May**
Start planning for some of the biggest sporting events coming up this month with



our downloadable sports calendar.

- 2. Establish your venue as the home of golf**

Let golf fans know your venue will be the place to watch all the drama and excitement from the US PGA Championship in May with our ready-made social post you can share to Facebook and Twitter.

- 3. Take your fixture posters to the next level**

Create custom fixture posters by selecting up to six fixtures across all sports and broadcasters and we'll automatically add your venue name. You can download and print your poster, or order two free prints to be sent straight to your venue.



A selection of sports fixtures coming soon:

- Thursday 18th May..... Newcastle v Brighton - 7.30pm
- Saturday 20th May..... Nottingham Forest v Arsenal - 5.30pm
- Sunday 21st May Manchester City v Chelsea - 6.45pm
- Friday 19th - Sunday 21st May Emilia Romagna Grand Prix
- Thursday 18th - Sunday 21st MayPGA Championship Golf Major
- Monday 22nd May..... Newcastle Utd v Leicester City - 8.00pm
- Thursday 25th May..... Premier League Darts play-offs
- Friday 26th - Sunday 28th May Monaco Grand Prix
- Saturday 27th May..... EFL Championship Play-off Final - 5.30pm
- Sunday 28th May Final Day of the Premier League
EFL League 2 Play-off Final - 1.30pm

Bangor's seafront shines with stunning renovation by Pubs Clubs Interiors!

In an age where businesses often miss deadlines and struggle to complete projects on time, it is refreshing to see a company that exceeds expectations.

Working alongside interior designer, Lara Woods, and Trans4mation Upholstery, Bangor based refurbishment company, Pubs Clubs Interiors (PCI), recently completed the renovation of The Nines Hotel (formerly the Salty Dog Hotel), which reopened in mid-April, and they deserve high praise for their exceptional work.

The first phase of development included the complete refurbishment of the hotel's 85-seater restaurant and public bar. PCI has done an outstanding job of incorporating coastal vibes into the interior design by utilising oceanic and earthy tones and mirrors that mimic the waves. They have used premium materials and fittings to create a stunning venue that stands out on Bangor's seafront, offering dreamy views of Belfast Lough and Bangor Marina.

The level of craftsmanship and attention to detail displayed by PCI in the renovation is truly impressive. From start to finish, their team worked tirelessly to ensure the project was completed on time and to the highest standards. The result is a beautiful and inviting space that is sure to delight both locals and visitors alike.

PCI's commitment to quality and customer satisfaction is evident in their work. The attention to detail and

premium materials used in the renovation is a testament to their dedication to excellence. Their ability to turn around a full refurbishment of the ground floor in a timely manner is commendable and speaks volumes of their professionalism and efficiency.

Owner of The Nines Hotel, Johnathan Fusco, commented: *"Pubs Clubs Interiors have done a fantastic job of phase 1 of our development of The Nines. Ronnie and his team were highly professional to deal with, and nothing was a problem. We set a fairly ambitious turnaround time, and with PCI project managing the entire fitout, the team made it happen with the highest attention to detail, regardless of the usual unforeseen curve balls that always materialise in projects of this scale. We're already looking forward to working with PCI again on our next project!"*

In conclusion, Pubs Clubs Interiors has done a superb job in renovating The Nines Hotel. Their dedication to quality, attention to detail, and commitment to customer satisfaction is truly outstanding. Their work is a shining example of the excellence that can be achieved in the field of refurbishment and interior design. Northern Ireland is lucky to have such a talented and reliable company in its midst, and we look forward to seeing what they will achieve in the future.



TRANSFORM YOUR CLUB FROM DRAB TO FAB WITH PCI



'The Refurbishment Specialists'

Call us today for a free quotation

028 9147 8000

you can also call

078 5021 2962 or 077 8401 9989



johnp.pci@gmail.com
ronnie.pci@gmail.com

www.pubsclubsinteriors.co.uk

Changing demands of new generation of cider drinkers

Cider is stocked in almost 95,000 UK venues and continues to offer significant value to outlets, according to a new report from Heineken UK in which the brewer examines the shifting trends and tastes which are changing the cider category.

Cider generates over £1.5bn annually, with almost a million pints sold daily and over two million bottles sold weekly. Nearly one in every nine drinks sold at the bar is cider.

Cider kicked off the dark fruit trend in the UK drinks industry, with many categories taking inspiration from the combination since. It continues to drive flavour innovation, driving forward premium flavoured packaged and draught sales in outlet.

Generating more sales lies within the premium and flavoured categories, while high volume, mainstream cider stalwarts on the bar continue to drive the sales successes of the past 12-24 months.

What to stock and why

The majority of outlets stock just one draught cider. Apple delivers a 10% higher rate of sale than flavoured cider when solus stocked, but with 41% of cider drinkers choosing flavoured cider this means there is often no draught option to satisfy such demand. Apple and flavoured ciders appeal on different occasions, so offering choice can increase volume sales. For the 38% of outlets stocking two cider brands, the apple and flavoured combo delivers a 20% higher rate of sale than two apple brands.

Brand loyalty

Cider drinkers are typically more brand loyal than most, with 73% specifying a brand when ordering. Identifying the preferred brands of the customer base (or at least the segments they choose, such as mainstream apple or premium flavoured ciders) is therefore a great first step to building an optimum cider range.



That said, cider drinkers are more likely to have larger repertoires; over 50% drink in more than four categories versus 26% for standard UK consumers.

years, and while innovation in cider may have slowed over recent years, greater choice of premium flavoured ciders and No & Low Alcohol offerings continues to push new consumers. In fact, packaged cider is ahead of the curve with most of the volume coming from premium segments.

Innovation and premiumisation

The cider category has been driven by premiumisation, causing total cider on-trade value sales to rise by 2.1 percentage points over the last 12 months. Premium apple and premium flavoured cider have shown a 23.1% and 78.2% volume growth respectively in the last three

With 46% of cider drinkers willing to trade up, Heineken UK believes that premium packaged cider provides the opportunity to drive value growth through increased consumer spend.

BOI UK Payment Acceptance
Accept Payments Anywhere

Start your journey with BOI UK Payment Acceptance (BOIPA UK). BOIPA UK has payment solutions to help any business to accept card payments from customers quickly and securely.



Payment terminals and EPOS

Enhance in-person payment experiences with a card terminal for any scenario. It's easy to set-up and comes packed with features.

[Find out more](#)



Online, In-App and Phone payments

Accept cards, mobile wallets and more across any digital channel.

[Find out more](#)

£250 Price Promise

Bank of Ireland UK Business Current Account Customers – If we cannot save you money on your current card rates, you walk away with £250*. Get a free quote today to see what you can save.

New to card payments?

Is your business new to accepting card payments? If so, try one of our terminals for 5 months and if you are not happy you can terminate your contract without penalty**.

Why choose BOIPA UK?

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>No hidden fees</p> <p>No Payment Card Industry (PCI) fees, Authorisation fees, minimum monthly fees.</p> | <p>Next Day Settlement</p> <p>The money will be in your account the next working day.</p> | <p>Simple Switchover</p> <p>Digital boarding process and easy set up.</p> | <p>24/7 customer support</p> <p>And nationwide field engineer team.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|



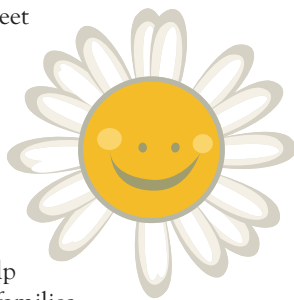
[Visit BOIPA.co.uk](https://www.boipa.co.uk)

*See boipa.co.uk/price-promise/ for Terms and Conditions
**See boipa.co.uk/new-to-cards/ for Terms and Conditions

EVO Payments International GmbH, Branch UK, trading as BOI UK Payment Acceptance is registered under Companies House number FC032111. Further trading name of EVO Payments International GmbH, Branch UK is 'BOIUKPA'. EVO Payments International GmbH, Branch UK is licensed by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority BaFin (Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht) in Germany (BaFin-ID 50071564 and Bak no. 122963; register available at www.bafin.de) and deemed authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for the provision of payment services. Details of the Temporary Permissions Regime, which allows EEA-based firms to operate in the UK for a limited period while seeking full authorisation, are available on the Financial Conduct Authority's website. EVO Payments International GmbH, Branch UK trading as BOI UK Payment Acceptance is not a member of the Bank of Ireland Group. BOI UK Payment Acceptance has entered into a marketing alliance with the Bank of Ireland. BOI and the Tree of Life logo are trademarks of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland and are being used under licence by EVO Payments International GmbH, Branch UK trading as BOI UK Payment Acceptance.

South Belfast club raises over £53k for children impacted by cancer

1st Belfast Rangers Club Barrington Street has raised £53,437 for Cancer Fund for Children, a charity that empowers, connects and strengthens children, young people and families impacted by cancer.



Across the last 20 years, the club has held a range of fundraising events to help Cancer Fund for Children be there for families. From Mamma Mia singalong fundraising nights and member birthday celebrations to annual events, including their Blues Brothers Cup and Christmas Fairs, members of the club, friends and family and customers have gone above and beyond to help ensure no child has to face cancer alone.

Speaking on this, Tom Conway, Treasurer for the club, said: “We are so incredibly proud of this amount which we know will go such a long way in helping Cancer Fund for Children be there for families that need them. We couldn’t have raised this money without the amazing support from the local community who have got behind every event and encouraged us every step of the way.

Anyone who is thinking of fundraising, I would say just go for it. It’s a great way to have fun with your club and engage with your supporters while raising money for a good cause.”

Cormac McMullan, Community Fundraiser for Cancer Fund for Children said, “It’s been a pleasure to work with this club across the last 20 years. Every member and supporter has been so passionate and enthusiastic about raising money and inspiring the community to get behind them, and I’m delighted that I’ve been able to facilitate them.

“Without people like this by our side, we simply couldn’t support children and families impacted by cancer, so on behalf of our charity, I want to say a massive thanks to the whole team.”

Learn more about Cancer Fund for Children by visiting the website today at www.cancerfundforchildren.com

If you have been inspired and want to find out how to get involved in fundraising, contact Cormac at: fundraising@cancerfundforchildren.com



(L-R) Eddie Marcus, Tom Conway and Michael Hegan.

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

Singer/songwriter and musician Joe Kenny speaks of his life in music



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

My column this month features singer/song-writer Joe Kenny, a man with a wonderful personality and smile that could light up any room.

Joe was born in Newry, and in his early years he lived in Dromintee, a small village in County Armagh; he now resides in Belfast with his wife and family. Joe was born with the condition glaucoma and had limited sight until he was five, when he lost his sight completely overnight.

At our interview I asked Joe had he any memory of having sight. Joe said, "I have retained some memory of colours, and really that's about it." Joe also told me his mother insisted he attend piano lessons at the age of six. He recalled hating it at the time but now knows these lessons were the foundation of his musical journey. Joe smiled and went on to say, "I took up playing drums at the age of 11 and tortured my neighbours for hours playing along to bands like Guns n Roses and Metallica. I started playing guitar at the age of 12 with an old acoustic my granda gave me. It had been battered about to

the point it was hardly playable, the strings were so high above the fret-board it hurt my fingers to play. The years of torturous piano lessons paid off though, giving me a good grounding in musical theory, meaning I was able to tune the guitar and work out some chords.

"I was always keen to play for anyone who would listen or pretend to care. When I was at school there were many bands. I can't recall just how many times I went to class late after lunch break; we were so loud we couldn't hear the school bell. I was always messing about with cassette tape recorders, recording myself and sharing song ideas with friends etc., so I guess I really was into song writing from the word go. I found that writing music came much easier to me than writing lyrics; it's something I've had to work at over the years.

"Covid-19 was a big wake-up call for me, with no gigs and with venues closing. It was around this time I took my writing seriously; if not, life would have just passed me by. At that time I recorded my first self-penned songs and released a 7 track EP 'Perfect Fool.' Since then I have released three singles. I am currently in the process of returning to the studio to record some new songs and just can't wait; the next album will be entitled, 'It's Been Too Long.'"

Joe was keen to mention a few people that had influenced him along his journey. He recalled at school how his music teacher had secured funding to buy guitars, drums and amps. He



said, "As young children, we thought this was amazing and great encouragement to budding musicians.

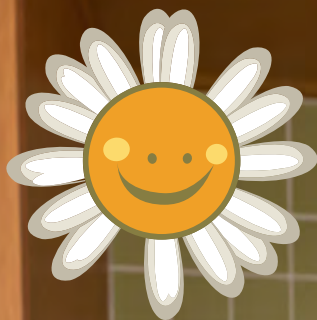
"So many people have shown me so much over the years, my thanks to them all. I moved to England for a while to study sound engineering. Whilst at college I met a fantastic person, a producer by the name of Paul Cobbold, who had worked as sound engineer for many of the chart toppers of the day. He somehow found himself teaching a lot of students, who were blind or partially sighted, the finer points of sound engineering and music production. He was inspiring, both in the way he taught and with his enthusiasm for music. He became a good friend of mine and ended up co-owning a recording studio in Leeds. He was also blind. I was in my early twenties and he was ten years older and he inspired me with

his 'Never settle for anything other than the best' attitude.

"Thank you Nigel for inviting me on to your radio show, it has been a highlight for me. You have a way of making your guests relaxed. I have been able to speak of my first ticket-only show at the Sunflower, and play my own music live on air. Shows like yours are vital for us independent musicians to showcase our work and hopefully increase our audience, switching their interest to the music we make."

Joe told me his wife Louise and children, Niamh age 17, Struan 13, Oisín 6, and Eunan 7mths, endure his tapping on the table, chairs, and anything that comes to hand. Whatever he is tapping out, I appreciate his music and hope to have him back in the studio soon with his new album.

Nigel



cancer fund
for children



Could you leave a
Gift in your Will...



...and help our **Cancer Support Specialists**
be there for more children like **Annabel?**

To find out more about ways you can support us by
leaving a gift in your will, please visit:
cancerfundforchildren.com/leave-a-gift-in-your-will
or contact our team today:

T: 028 9080 5599

E: giftsinwills@cancerfundforchildren.com

Photo: Annabel and her Cancer Support Specialist
Hannah during an individual support session

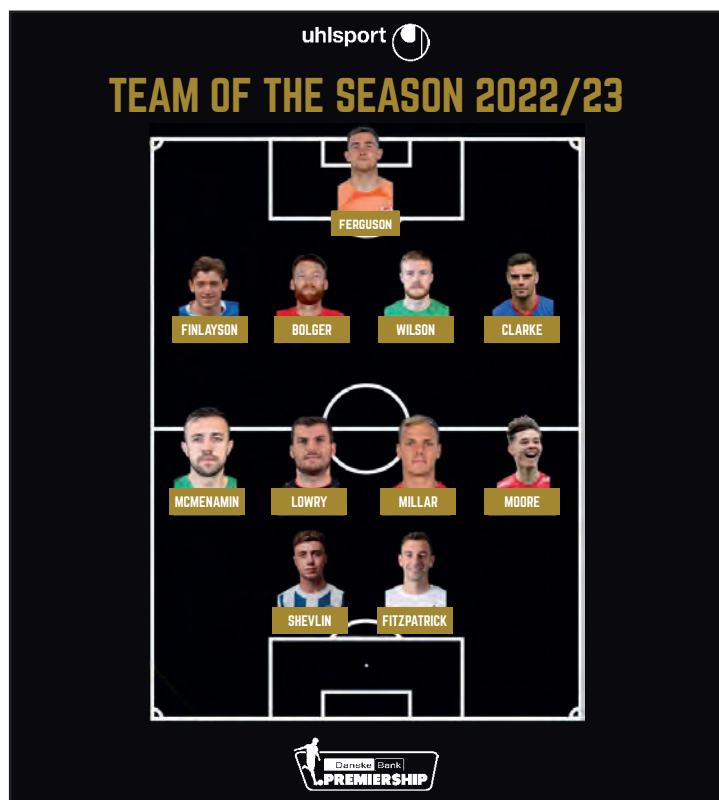


Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
(NIC100532). Registered Charity in Ireland (20142681). CHY 21682.

NI Football Writers' Awards

Larne scoop Manager & Player of the Year awards



Smirnoff



Discover BEA-utiful Stout



Supplied by



UNITED
WINES

For supply contact us on
028 38 316 555 or email marketing@unitedwines.co.uk

drinkaware.co.uk