

# Club Review

VOLUME 23 - Issue 1, 2010

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# Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the Donegal Celtic F.S.C., Belfast  
on Saturday 6th February 2010

The Chairman welcomed members upon opening the meeting with apologies received from Philip Mallon who was unable to attend.

The Secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting which were passed, being proposed and seconded by Jim Hanna and Tom McMinn.

Correspondence was read out and expanded on where necessary.

The Chairman listed meetings that have taken place, commenting on area meetings in Newry and Downpatrick. The remaining list was extensive on which there was much discussion.

At a meeting with S.D.L.P. M.L.A.'s P.J. Bradley and Mary Bradley it appears that we are on more positive ground in respect of what we are hoping to achieve by way of amendments to current legislation.

We are aware that the Accounts Regulations will be brought into line with normal business practice.

We are seeking amendments to the area of Children's Certificates, asking for young persons to be permitted on club premises, in the company of a parent/guardian, until one hour after the completion of a sporting event.

There was also a discussion about particular areas of entertainment licenses. Another requirement for clubs

will fire assessments. Although it is not law in Northern Ireland yet it is soon to be introduced. Nevertheless clubs are advised as a matter of good practice to have a fire risk assessment put in place.

Michael Flowers of Aviva Insurance has agreed to provide an address at our AGM on this matter to allay any unnecessary fears clubs may have.

Importantly, any assessment is only required to be executed initially with annual reviews to follow.

Although there are numerous companies offering a service to provide such assessments we have found Aviva to be very helpful and importantly highly competitive in respect of costs. Although a club delegate has to be appointed to be responsible this is not a difficult task.

The cost of entertainment licenses will be judged on a sliding scale in accordance with the number of people at events.

An article was read out, giving advice about the type of insurance cover clubs should have in respect of employment issues. Details of a meeting with insurers 'DAS' who cover employment issues, encompassed as part of the club insurance package provided by Rollins, has clarified that the cover provided by 'DAS' is much more easy to comply with when compared to previous arrangements.

Our solicitor Maura McKay

was also in attendance to pose questions covering the legal implications.

Joe Patterson informed us about changes in employment legislation. He will of course provide a briefing at the forthcoming AGM outlining changes in such items as holiday entitlement which is to be extended from 20 to 28 days, (to include statutory holidays) etc.

He did emphasise that in the event of employment problems, the clubs insurance company should be notified immediately. The Labour Relations Agency can also be helpful and their advice will be accepted by the insurance company.

There was also some discussion on rates relief in areas of clubs used for sporting activities. Any club wishing to obtain information on the requirements for such relief should contact the Federation.

PRS fees were discussed. With many clubs having cut back on

their entertainment due to the recession perhaps clubs should make an application in order to reduce fees.

It has been requested we host a CORCA conference in Belfast. Arrangements are ongoing to host the event at Belfast City Hall on Wednesday 26th May 2010.

A financial report was presented by the Treasurer with copies distributed to those present. The report was proposed and seconded as a true record by Jim McCaul and Brian McCartney.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed with thanks being extended to Brian McCartney and the committee of Donegal Celtic for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality which preceded and followed the meeting.

Bob McGlone  
Secretary to the Federation

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## Federation travel to Newry



Mr John Davidson  
Chairman, NIFC.

The Federation travelled to Newry on Saturday 16th January 2010 where a meeting was hosted by Newry Shamrocks Clubs.

In attendance were a number of clubs invited from within the

catchment area together with some political representatives.

The business tabled for discussion included amendments to the 1996 Clubs (N.I.) Order. Also covered in some detail was the rating issue and electrical testing periods which appear to be at variance with other council areas.

Opening the meeting the Federation Chairman, John Davidson, provided an in-depth update on developments thus far, highlighting the importance of lobbying the Minister, Margaret Ritchie M.L.A.

It is thought that it may well be beneficial to lobby the Minister via the constituency route rather than through her

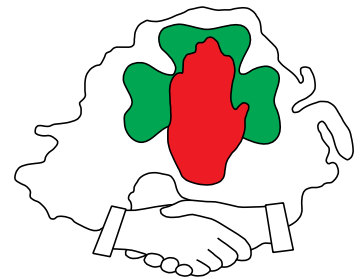
Parliamentary office.

Indications of late seem to indicate there is a rather more positive attitude to amending clubs legislation in respect of the accounts regulations and opening hours with the possibility that other factors may also be included for consideration.

At the meeting the Federation emphasised the importance of the Minister recognising the important and undeniable link between the social club infrastructure which provides the all important financial support of sport throughout the province.

Since the meeting in Newry the Federation Chairman has been

actively engaged in contacting Newry Council to throw some light on the period covered for electrical checks and the rating issue; having discussed matters with Charles Casey of Newry INF and legislative matters with Mr P.J. Bradley M.L.A.. who invited us to meet him at Stormont on Monday 25th January 2010 (see p5).



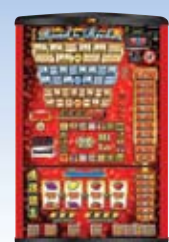
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# Light at the end of a very long tunnel!



P.J. Bradley M.L.A., South Down.



Mary Bradley M.L.A., Foyle.

N.I. Federation of Clubs officers John Davidson, Chairman, Bob McGlone, Secretary, David Larmour, Treasurer and Harry Beckinsale, PRO were invited to meet S.D.L.P. representatives P.J. Bradley M.L.A. for South Down and Mary Bradley, M.L.A. for Foyle at Stormont on Monday 25th January 2010.

Following his introduction the Chairman went on to elucidate on aspects of amendments the Federation are seeking to the 1996 Clubs Order and Accounts regulations and the reasons for which these amendments are required.

Michael Kearney, advisor to the Minister Margaret Ritchie, was invited to join which proved very helpful as he was able to

throw some light on a number of the items discussed. An open and frank debate ensued with general agreement that although the Federation represents the social aspect of clubs, it is equally important to recognise that there is an inextricable link between the social club and its associated sport.

Following the meeting the general consensus is that we are seeing rather more understanding of the plight faced by the private member, sports club sector and the precarious position many clubs are in.

Hopefully we will see developments sooner rather than later as the Chairman pointed out that if introduced

now it may already be too late for many clubs.

Mary Bradley M.L.A., a Derry City F.C. supporter, had an excellent understanding of the importance of the support generated by the social club in support of the sporting ethos of a club. The PRO highlighted the position of Derry City F.C. who have recently secured a registration and the active role played by Gerry Gallagher, the Federation representative in the area.

All we can do now is hope that difficulties at the Legislative Assembly are resolved and we can finally secure the amendments we have pursued for so long.



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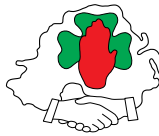


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## Gambling law review

As former Northern Ireland Minister David Hanson M.P. stated, private member clubs should be encouraged to play an increasingly important role within their respective communities. With this in mind we were pleased to submit the following in response.

In our view gambling is influenced by access to online and televised gambling with virtually no restriction or the possibility that it can ever be effectively policed. Moreover there is no time restriction on opening hours for these facilities.

What is most alarming is the fact that young and vulnerable people have access to such gambling with no way of

guaranteeing that those taking part fulfil age requirements.

In conclusion we are mindful of the comment by Dr Brian Gaffney, when he was Chief Executive of the Health Promotion Agency, when he said that access to alcohol and gambling are best placed within a controlled environment such as that which exists in a private member non profit making club.

### BINGO CLUBS

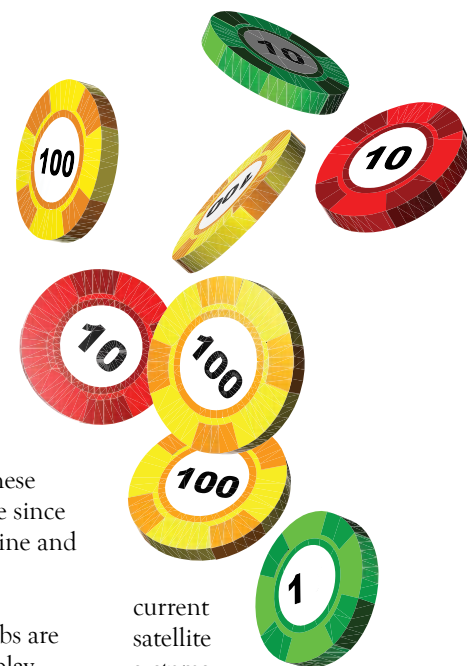
There seems little point in the requirement to enforce the 24 hour membership rule in view of the numerous other avenues via which members of the general public can play bingo. Moreover online and televised gambling cannot ensure that

those playing fulfil age requirements.

In consideration of the aforesaid it seems a folly not to consider increasing current monetary limits and of course to review the matter of Sunday opening. All these issues are unenforceable since the introduction of online and televised gambling.

Although we realise clubs are currently permitted to play bingo on a small scale, we seek changes to this aspect of legislation allowing private member non profit making clubs to be permitted to play linked-up bingo across the network of clubs utilising

current satellite systems. This would provide an important revenue stream with which to generate much needed income to underpin the various sporting activities and associated facilities/grounds.



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## BOOKMAKING

Again access to televised and online gambling has created a situation which navigates around enforceable law.

A bookmakers license in the ROI and N. Ireland should be completely separate as they are in separate jurisdictions.

Paying out of football pools winnings should not be restricted to one type of outlet.

## GAMING IN LICENSED PREMISES

It is not believed to be in the wider public interest to permit gaming such as poker and bingo even with modest monetary limits in licensed premises as this would present the danger of exposing young and vulnerable people to the dangers of gambling.

## GAMING IN REGISTERED CLUBS

As already stated it is essential to recognise that private member non profit making clubs operate under a controlled environment operated by respective management committees which are elected by the membership and of course are also controlled via the extremely strict financial controls set out in the 1996 Clubs Order and Accounts Regulations.

In the main the make-up of a clubs membership reflects a family orientation and consists of a large percentage of the adult population.

In reference to gaming within clubs they should indeed be permitted to enjoy the benefits of increased monetary levels in respect of linked-up bingo with other member clubs via satellite etc.

Furthermore there should be an increase in monetary levels in respect of other games such as poker, the reason being that the private member non profit making clubs running poker nights and the like do so to raise funds to support their sporting ethos and the charitable and worthy causes they support on an ongoing basis.

It is evident that the present levels are not fit for purpose and evidently belong to a bygone age.

## GAMING MACHINES

Yet again permitting machines such as automated roulette machines should be permitted as it provides a degree of control not afforded if the end user is left no alternative other than to play online or via television gaming stations.

In respect of private member non profit making clubs we submit that the number of machines permitted should be in line with the size of a clubs membership with consideration being given to implementing a sliding scale to a maximum of five gaming machines.

## LOTTERIES

As stated the monetary levels in Northern Ireland are much lower than those in the remainder of the UK. It would seem common sense to align with UK as we are either part of the UK or not. Is there a good reason for having different levels?

## TRACK LICENSING

We are not qualified to provide an opinion on this area of licensing.

## LICENSING OBJECTIVES

We believe that Northern

Ireland would benefit from having its own independent Gaming Board similar to that which exists in GB.

## LICENSING SYSTEM

The courts should have overall authority with licenses being issued to cover a five year period.

## ENFORCEMENT

We believe the measures in place in GB should be sufficient to meet requirements in Northern Ireland.

## PROTECTING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE PEOPLE

It is recognised that the private member non profit making club sector is a controlled environment and as such is more able to provide for the

protection required.

We however acknowledge the concerns expressed and feel that although responsible in our outlook, with the wider public having easy access to all forms of gambling, we feel that we're not best placed to provide an adequate opinion on how to protect those referred to throughout the wider community.

## INCREASING CHOICE

If we are to compete on a world stage we believe that Northern Ireland should benefit from an open minded view in regard to allowing the establishing of casinos and the other forms of gambling mentioned, but under very strict licensing control.

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## Club insurance

### Do you know what is required?



Maura McKay,  
Shean Dickson Merrick.

The following editorial has been provided by the Federation solicitor, Maura McKay, to provide advice and guidance for management committees.

#### ARE YOU COVERED?

All clubs must have Public Liability insurance to cover personal injuries suffered by visitors to their club premises. They are also obliged to carry Employers Liability insurance in case of injury to their employees.

Many clubs will have additional insurance cover for legal expenses, either as part of a global policy or as a separate policy. Some clubs however fail to take advantage of their entitlement under their Legal Expenses policies, either because they are unaware that they have cover, or because they fail to notify their insurers until it is too late and the insurers


then refuse to indemnify under the policy.

*There are three main types of insurance cover governing Clubs' affairs as follows:-*

**1. Public Liability/Employers Liability** – This type of policy covers the cost of compensation and legal expenses for claims by any visitor or employee injured on the club premises.

*Steps to take when circumstances arise which may give rise to a claim:-*


- (a) Any incident which is likely to give rise to a claim should be reported to the insurers immediately.
- (b) An accident log should be maintained in which a contemporaneous account of the incident is recorded by those on duty.
- (c) If possible a list of other persons present who could act as witnesses on behalf of the club should also be made.
- (d) Digital cameras are now relatively inexpensive. The club should consider keeping a camera in the club so photographs of the location of the accident can be taken and stored on computer and kept for future reference in case a claim is made.
- (e) If a letter of claim is received it should be passed on to the insurers immediately.
- (f) If a writ of summons or other legal proceedings is received,




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it should be passed on to the insurers immediately.

These steps, if taken, will assist a club and their insurers in dealing fairly with genuine claims and in defending spurious claims. Prompt reporting will also prevent the insurers refusing indemnity on the grounds that they have been prejudiced by late reporting of the incident.

## 2. General Legal Expenses

**Cover** – This type of cover normally covers the legal expenses involved in defending a claim by an employee of the club that they have been unfairly dismissed or discriminated against by the club or its officers. Some policies will also cover an award of damages to an employee if they prove their claim. This type of cover also includes the legal costs of dealing with prosecutions by the PSNI for breaches of the Registration of Clubs Order.

*Steps to take when circumstances arise which may give rise to a claim:-*

- (a) If an employee has to be disciplined, contact the clubs broker or legal expenses insurer and establish if they have a consultancy service or helpline for employment issues. If so the club officer concerned should ring them **BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION**. Some insurers will refuse to indemnify clubs when they have an employment claim if the club officers fail to seek advice from the helpline before taking action. Keep a record of any advice given.
- (b) Keep a written record of all actions taken, including

comprehensive minutes of disciplinary meetings as this will assist in proving what happened and what was said at the meetings, if challenged in the future.

- (c) If an employee informs a club officer that they have a grievance, whether expressed orally or in writing, again consult the helpline for advice on procedures. If the correct procedure is not followed and the employee resigns as a result and claims constructive dismissal, the club could find that the insurers refuse to indemnify because advice was not sought at the relevant time.
- (d) If a claim form is received from the Office of Industrial Tribunals it must be sent with all relevant documents and correspondence to the legal expenses insurers immediately. There are only 28 days to enter a response to a Tribunal claim and if the time limit is missed, the club could find itself barred from defending the claim and without cover for any compensation awarded because of their failure to advise their insurers of the claim in time.
- (e) If the police visit the club and take statements with a view to prosecution, the insurers should be informed directly. The club should not wait until a summons is issued.

Clubs should be aware that many legal expenses policies give the insurers the right to settle claims if they believe the club will be unsuccessful. If the club do not agree with this course of action, they can opt to continue

to defend the claim but the insurers will not meet any of the additional legal expenses.

## 3. Indemnity for Officers –

This cover normally includes legal and other expenses incurred by officers in performing their duties on behalf of the club. This type of cover is likely to form situations where members challenge the actions of the committee for example where a member is suspended or expelled and takes action against the club seeking reinstatement. It may also cover claims against the club relating to elections and constitutional issues.

*Steps to take when circumstances arise which may give rise to a claim:-*

- (a) If a challenge to the actions of any officer or member of the committee is made by a member or visitor to the club the insurer should be notified. This will prevent the insurers refusing indemnity on the grounds that the issue was not referred to them at the appropriate time.
- (b) If a letter of claim is received from a member or a solicitor, or if legal proceedings are served, notification must be given to the insurers immediately. Most insurers will refuse to

cover legal costs incurred before they are notified so if you are instructing the club's solicitor, ask them to immediately seek cover for their fees from your insurers.

Normally a claim form has to be completed setting out the nature of the claim, confirming the date the club first became aware of it and the chances of success. The sooner this is completed the better. Prompt completion should mean that the club do not have to pick up any shortfall on fees between the time of instructing their solicitor and the date that the insurer confirms cover.

If your club does not have legal expenses cover, it is still vital to act promptly when notified of a potential claim, especially an employment claim, as there are strict time limits for dealing with such a claim. You should therefore instruct a suitable solicitor as soon as possible.

*T. Oscar Rollins has been the major force in club insurance for the past 25 years. If your club insurance does not provide cover for the following we recommend you contact Rollins Club Insurance as a matter of urgency to insure that you are fully protected.*

## N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

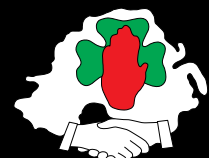
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## Don't Miss the Miami Showband at the King's Hall on 17th April



*The sensational Miami Showband will be at the King's Hall on 17th April.*

The news that the fabulous Miami Showband are to appear at the Federation dinner and dance on 17th April has spread quickly. Although the letters to members have just recently gone out we have already received calls enquiring about tickets.

This is an evening which will take us all on a trip down memory lane bringing back wonderful memories of Romano's, the Boom Boom Rooms and the Fiesta. Let's be honest, bands don't come much bigger than the Miami

Showband and I'm quite sure everyone will be looking forward to turning the clock back.

Clubs wishing to attend this major event in the club year are encouraged to contact us as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

### Who's laughing now?

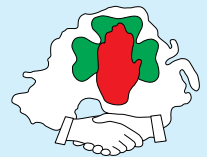
'Big O' is making a welcome return since his last appearance around ten years ago since which he has become one of Ireland's highest profile comedians.



## Ensure your club is represented at the AGM

Members are reminded that the N.I. Federation of Clubs A.G.M. will take place on Saturday 13th March 2010 in the headquarters of the R.A.O.B., 17 Church Street, Belfast, BT1 1PG which is just off Lower North Street.

We express thanks to the R.A.O.B. for making their club facilities available for the meeting.



## Federation bid farewell to Terry

Enjoyment mixed with sadness was a feature of an evening hosted by the Federation executive committee to mark the retirement of Terry Loughins from Diageo.

We have enjoyed many enjoyable hours, in many different locations, in Terry's company so it was wholly appropriate that on this occasion we hosted the evening.

Nick's Warehouse provided the setting for the presentation which initially took the form of a rather elaborate watch courtesy of Federation Treasurer Davy Larmour. This raised quite a laugh when opened.

However the real presentation was a commissioned caricature depicting many facets of Terry's time in Diageo together with aspects of his private life.

It is fair to say that Terry was more than a little bewildered as to how our research was conducted and how we were able to uncover a detailed history of his past working and personal life. Still, it was all in good taste and provided the perfect start to what was a most enjoyable evening in the company of a true friend.

Following the meal we moved to Dukes, adjacent to the restaurant.



*The Executive Committee with Terry Loughins at The Duke of York, Belfast.*

Although packed to capacity the atmosphere was excellent, allowing the company to recall some of our experiences together.

We all sincerely hope Terry remains in the trade and that we have the opportunity to meet again in the not too distant future.

## Leading NZ winemaker tutor's local enthusiasts



Blair Gibbs from Spy Valley, Ian Carmichael, Carmichael Group, Lynda Cochrane, Bangor and Colm McGarrigle from Diageo NI.

Blair Gibbs, General Manager, Spy Valley Wines of New Zealand was in Belfast recently to lead a selection of local wine reviewers and trade enthusiasts in a tutored tasting of the Spy Valley range of wines.

The tasting event was hosted by Diageo Northern Ireland, the world's leading drinks company. Each dish included in the five course meal was accompanied by an appropriately selected wine from the Spy Valley portfolio, providing an opportunity for guests to sample a broad section of the range.

The Spy Valley winery is one of the most advanced winemaking facilities in New Zealand and is situated on the sunny southern side of Marlborough's Wairau Valley. Established in 1993 it has become one of Marlborough's finest cool climate vineyards with ten varieties of grapes over 380 acres of vineyards.

Colm McGarrigle, Wine and

Wholesale Marketing Manager, Diageo NI, said, "It was a fantastic opportunity to have Blair come and showcase the outstanding quality of wines his team is producing and I'm delighted he was able to visit Northern Ireland to discuss the variety of its range with our guests. His knowledge of the intricacies of winemaking is fascinating and his dedication and passion are reflected in the high quality of the Spy Valley label."

Blair Gibbs added, "I am extremely passionate about winemaking and I always enjoy the opportunity to discuss our range with wine enthusiasts. Many people within Northern Ireland have an educated palate and I was delighted to hear such positive feedback on our wines. We pride ourselves in producing youthful, exuberant wines with fruit flavour and aroma and we believe our wines will continue to prove popular within the Northern Ireland marketplace."

## The WKD approach to Valentine's Day

Ever keen to make life easier for the modern male, Northern Ireland's No.1 'ready to drink' brand, WKD, has produced a set of Valentine's Day posters to guide men through the pitfalls surrounding the most romantic day of the year.

Under the theme of 'Bloke Rules', the snippets of male wisdom support WKD Red and are intended to set minds to rest when dealing with matters of the heart, all in a suitably WKD way.

The posters offer such humorous insights as 'This absolutely, totally counts as 'a nice bottle of red'; 'Why give her a ring when a text will do' and 'It's a bottle. And it's bubbly. Sorted.' The useful posters include space for outlets to display prices, and are available free from the POS Hotline on (0800 917 3450).

Debs Carter, Marketing Director at Beverage Brands, owner of WKD, said, "This cheeky approach gives WKD the chance to make topical comment and

generate a tactical sales opportunity for outlets. The poster kits are a fun way to support Valentine's Day in a suitably witty manner.

"Bloke Rules are great for communicating with our target audience in a very tongue-in-cheek style. The messages will strike a chord with guys who will instantly recognise the insights into male thinking and will generate wry smiles amongst females who will (unfortunately) know that these are all just a little too close to the truth for their liking," concludes Carter.





## Rory Clinches Sports Star of the Year Award



Top golfer Rory McIlroy was named Sports Star of the Year at this year's Magners backed Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards for 2009. The twenty year old Holywood golfer is the youngest ever winner of the top award and follows in the footsteps of fellow golfer Darren Clarke and other sporting icons including Wendy Houvenaghel, David Healy, Tony McCoy and the late Joey Dunlop. Rory is also a former winner of the George Best Breakthrough and Young Player of the Year awards.

Rory, who is currently ranked 10th in the world, was in Dubai preparing for his first major tournament of 2010, the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship and

was unable to attend the awards ceremony last month. Rory's award was collected by his proud parents Gerry and Rosie McIlroy.

Also honoured were Olympic athlete and international hockey legend Maeve Kyle O.B.E. who was inducted into the Belfast Telegraph Hall of Fame and Special Award winner Ireland cricketer Kyle McCallan.

This year's ONE 1918 George Best Breakthrough Award was presented to Celtic and Northern Ireland footballer Niall McGinn, whilst Irish rugby international Stephen Ferris won Player of the Year and the Linwoods Team of the Year was

awarded to Ballynahinch Rugby team.

Up and coming young athlete Ciara Mageean won Young Player of the Year and Armagh Minors clinched the Young Team of the Year trophy. This year's Sports Person with a Disability award, sponsored by Disability Needs was presented to World Dwarf Games competitor Niall McVeigh with Antrim GAA coach Liam Bradley taking the Sport NI Manager/Coach of the Year.

This year's Sport NI Local Heroes award was presented to Londonderry based wrestler Mohammad Ali who has represented both

GB and Northern Ireland on the international stage and the NI Sports Forum WJ 'Paddy' Patterson trophy was awarded to veteran badminton administrator Bob Colhoun who has chalked up over 50 years of outstanding voluntary service to Ulster and Irish badminton.

The 2009 Sports Awards welcomed over 400 guests including high profile stars from the world of local sport including former Northern Ireland footballers Pat Jennings and Gerry Armstrong, rugby stars Paddy Wallace, Tom Court, Darren Cave, Chris Henry and Rory Best. Former Ireland rugby players Mike Gibson, Willie

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\*Source: NITGI 2009 ABC Jan-Jun 09

Anderson, Trevor Ringland and Tyrone Howe, Jeremy Davidson, Keith Crossan and Nigel Carr and Simon Best. Stars from the motorbiking world included Eugene and Michael Laverty, Alistair Seeley, Ryan Farquhar, Jonathan Rea and NW200 Race Director Mervyn Whyte MBE.

Congratulating all the winners Belfast Telegraph editor Mike Gilson said, "The Belfast Telegraph is delighted to honour so many top sporting heroes at our annual awards and 2009 has undoubtedly been an outstanding year for local sports people both at home and abroad. The Belfast Telegraph would also like to pay tribute to our lead sponsor Magners Irish Cider as well as Sport Northern Ireland who have been a key supporter of the awards this year and of course all our category sponsors Linwoods, Disability Needs, ONE 1918 and NI Sports Forum."

This is the eighth year that Magners Irish Cider has partnered the Awards as title sponsor and Nicola McCleery, Head of Marketing said, "At Magners we acknowledge the Sports Awards as a very special occasion which acknowledges the outstanding sporting achievements that have been attained over the last twelve months by so many of our talented sports men and women. Magners continues to play an important role within the Northern Ireland sporting arena and we're delighted to partner the Belfast Telegraph as title sponsor and congratulate all the winners tonight." Sport Northern Ireland are also supporting this year's awards



At the recent Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards sponsored by Magners, Rory McIlroy won 'Sports Star of the Year' sponsored by Magners. In his absence his parents Rosie and Gerry McIlroy (centre) collected the award that was presented by Nicola McCleery from Magners, and Mike Gilson (far right), Editor of the Belfast Telegraph.



Maeve Kyle won the 'Belfast Telegraph Hall of Fame' Award.



Ballynahinch Rugby Club who had plenty to cheer about when the side was named Team of the Year.



Celtic and Northern Ireland footballer Niall McGinn pictured receiving his 'George Best Breakthrough Award'.



Sport NI Chief Executive, Eamon McCartan (right) with John Davidson (centre) and Harry Beckinsale.

programme and Chief Executive Eamonn McCartan said, "Sport Northern Ireland are delighted to support the Sports

Awards again this year, as an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the wealth of sporting talent we have in Northern

Ireland. We wish all nominees the best of luck and hope to see many more rising stars in the forthcoming year."



## Fire risk assessments and your club

### make sure you're covered

Please be assured fire risk assessments are here to stay and while prosecutions haven't been taken the power exists to do so.

The law is in place in the remainder of the UK with its introduction in Northern Ireland imminent.

We have been contacted by a number of risk assessment providers however due to their association with Rollins Club Insurance, major insurance company Aviva have come to the fore to provide a risk assessment at a very competitive cost.

Obviously major companies will provide some reassurance that all requirements will be fully complied with.

We are informed that a risk assessment is only required

initially with subsequent annual reviews which can be conducted by the appointed club committee person or at a small cost if carried out by the company providing the risk assessment.

Do not take the view "it will never happen to me". I say this because, should your club be unfortunate enough to encounter a fire, would you not feel more reassured in the knowledge that your fire risk assessment had been carried out by a major company?

*Any club requiring further information on this matter is invited to contact the Federation PRO on 07889 681714.*



## George Dawson elected as new CIU President



West Yorkshire Branch Secretary and National Executive member George Dawson has been elected President of the Club & Institute Union.

In a three-cornered election he narrowly defeated the acting President Colin Wright and Wessex Branch Secretary John Wood. The new President says he will be vigorous in putting the Union's case to politicians.

## CCTV code of practice

Following a query by one of our member clubs regarding the CCTV Code of Practice we have been informed by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) that wherever CCTV is in operation appropriate signage should be used so that members are made aware that they are in an area where a camera is in operation and the reasons for this.

The ICO have made it clear that individuals must be made aware that their movements are being recorded, and that any inappropriate behaviour will



be recorded and may be used at an appeal hearing.

This does not apply to voice recording, which, under the ICO's rules can never be used in the same way.

## Gaming machine refunds

We can inform clubs who made a claim for a refund of VAT on gaming machine takings back in 2006 that the Rank Group was successful in the second leg of its Tribunal hearing where Rank's claim of breach of fiscal neutrality was upheld.

This is good news for those clubs who made their claims for VAT refunds, back in 2006, for periods up to December 2005 and who requested that their claim be stood behind Rank.

Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are however, appealing the first leg of the Tribunal which is still proceeding and they are likely to appeal this second leg also. The Federation continues to receive updates and further progress will be reported as and when available.

HMRC can be expected to declare their intention about paying out claims and/or a further appeal in the near future.

## PAYE goes online

Amended PAYE Regulations now require employers with fewer than 50 employees (ie most clubs) to file their Employer Annual Returns (P35 and P14s) online. Larger firms

have been doing this for some time. From May 2010 you may have to pay a penalty if you do not pay PAYE due each month on time and in full.



# Music brings clubs to life...

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If you want to add atmosphere to your club, there's nothing quite like music:

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We have a dedicated licence for members' clubs, designed to suit your needs. Nearly **90%** of your licence fee goes to music creators, so they can keep on making music.

For more information, or to buy a Music Licence call us today on **0800 068 4828** quoting 'Club Review'

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for MUSIC

[www.prsformusic.com](http://www.prsformusic.com)

*PRS for Music* supports Northern Ireland's up and coming musical talent as well as more established artists such as Snow Patrol and Neil Hannon.

*PRS for Music* is proud of its long-standing relationship with the NIFC and would like to thank them for their continued support of music in Northern Ireland's clubs.

† Music Works survey of 2,000 people, conducted in March 2009. Visit [www.musicworksforyou.com](http://www.musicworksforyou.com) for more details. \* The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 requires you gain the permission of the copyright owner if you play music in public. Our Music Licence provides you with this permission for the rights administered by *PRS for Music*, for musical works controlled by *PRS for Music* in the UK. A separate sound recording licence may also be needed. Visit [www.ppluk.com](http://www.ppluk.com) for more details. A Music Licence gives you the right to play our copyright music. You also need a TV licence.

## Let music help you bring your club to life

A members' club needs regular visitors to maintain a great atmosphere, so it's only natural that a club would want to do as much as possible to keep members coming through the door.

Many clubs have found that playing music can be a great way of doing just that. Recent studies† have shown that 91% of customers like to hear some background music played in a club or bar, and 82% of those would buy more drinks and stay longer if music they enjoyed was being played. 82% also feel that hearing good music makes them more sociable.

Playing music for your customers and staff does come with an upfront fee, as all businesses using copyright music require a licence from *PRS for Music*. However, this can be balanced out nicely by the benefits that playing music for customers can bring, such as increased bar sales.

Music Licences are tailored according to the size of your business and the way in which music is played or performed there, such as on a CD player,

radio or a TV (even if you just have the TV on for sport or other programmes, you will require a Music Licence as well as a TV licence).

### Where the money goes

*PRS for Music* plays a vital role in ensuring that music creators are rewarded for the use of their work. We're a not-for-profit organisation. Nearly 90% of our income is re-distributed amongst our songwriter and composer members who write the music you listen to, including artists from Northern Ireland.

For more information or to buy a Music Licence, call us on 0800 068 4828 quoting Club Review or visit [www.prsformusic.com](http://www.prsformusic.com)

† Music Works survey of 2,000 people, conducted in March 2009. Visit [www.musicworksforyou.com](http://www.musicworksforyou.com) for more details.

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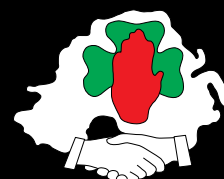
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**07889 681714**

**07889 800325**

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



## Federation 'Cheques for Charity Day'

Harland & Wolff Staff Club provided the setting for the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs Cheques for Charity Day.

Ten local charities each received £500 with Chest Heart and Stroke Chief Executive, Andrew Dougal, speaking on behalf of recipients.

Andrew, a club man himself, spoke in glowing terms of the Federation, its members, and the important role they play in supporting the charity sector. It is of course important to recognise that these donations are made on behalf of our member clubs.

Despite the economic climate the Federation Chairman



NI Federation of Clubs Executive Committee members with the happy recipients.



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**Email: [julie@holmesvendni.co.uk](mailto:julie@holmesvendni.co.uk)**

told those present that the N.I. Federation of Clubs were delighted to continue supporting charities in a tangible way.

The Chairman extended thanks to the Management Committee of Harland & Wolff Staff Club for making their excellent

facilities available for the event and for the outstanding hospitality which followed the presentations.

Federation delegates travelled from across Northern Ireland to be at the event and their attendance was also appreciated.

## Tennent's NI charity awards

Tennent's NI continue to act in the true spirit of Christmas via their ongoing annual cheques for charity event.

In 2009 the event took place in the beautiful surroundings of the newly refurbished Belfast Museum, providing the perfect setting in which to present the donations, each of £500, to local charities.

In his introduction Jeff Tosh of Tennents NI acknowledged the work carried out by the recipients.

Jeff went on to provide a background to the history of the awards and the association with the respective bodies each of which are invited to nominate their chosen charities for the awards.



# Another Successful Charity Day at the Welders

The annual charity show at Harland & Wolff Welders F.S.C., which is held each year in association with Dundela F.C., was as expected, a resounding success.

On the day, a host of artistes were at the club to offer their services free of charge. Playing to a packed house, everyone enjoyed the day in true holiday spirit whilst in the knowledge that they were supporting a range of local charities.

The cheque presentation took place in Harland & Wolff Welders F.S.C. on Thursday 28th January 2010 when eight charity representatives each received a cheque for £510. The charities were: Macmillan Cancer Support, Fleming Fulton School, Harberton School, Dee Street Community Centre, Island Day Centre, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Tudordale Homes and Beechfield School.

The representatives expressed




*A very happy Christmas for the beneficiaries at the charity day.*

their gratitude and provided an insight to the works of their respective organisations.

Fred Magee, H&W Welders F.S.C. Secretary and IFA representative, and Tommy Donnelly, Dundela F.C., expressed thanks to all those involved.

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## Presents an evening of football legends

The first six 'Carling Presents an Evening of Legends' events have been a resounding success with fans giving all the players and legends a fantastic reception. Glentoran kicked off the proceedings followed by Lisburn Distillery, Glenavon and Cliftonville. The players and legends were grilled by football fans on topics ranging from "Best Manager" to "Career Highs and Lows" and had the opportunity to get autographs and pictures with their heroes and the Gibson Cup, all washed down with pints of ice cold Carling.

Carling Premiership fans can look forward to eight further highly entertaining events in 2010:

Portadown: 10th February  
Ballymena Utd: 24th February  
Newry City: 10th March  
Coleraine: 24th March  
Dungannon Swifts: 14th April  
Crusaders: 28th April

Tickets for these exclusive events are free but places are limited. To apply for a ticket go to the



Ian Gibson and Robert Miller from East Belfast are pictured with Glentoran's Paul Leeman and Keith Gillespie and Carling girl Judith Wilson at the Oval at the first 'Carling Presents an Evening of Legends' event.

Carling Premiership website [www.carlingpremiership.com/legends](http://www.carlingpremiership.com/legends). Fans can also go to the website to see pictures and videos from all the events and take part in the event forums.

To coincide with these events, Carling has also launched an exclusive season long loyalty card promotion to help drive sales of Carling and reward consumer loyalty in outlets. The promotion will run until

May 2010 and is designed to appeal to fans of the local game. Consumers can collect tokens with every purchase of Carling which can be redeemed for FREE Carling merchandise including keyrings, sports bags, t-shirts, footballs, beanie hats, fleeces and Carling Premiership Umbro jackets. If you would like to find out more about our Carling Loyalty Card Promotion please contact your C&C NI Trade Manager.


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# An Evening of Legends

BBC Sport's Jackie Fullerton, host of the Carling Legends nights is pictured with Cliftonville legends Marty Tabb, John Platt and striker Chris Scannell with Carling's Lisa Morrow.



Gordon Jamison from Dromore and Sam Bowman from Hillsborough are pictured with Linfield's David Jeffrey, Peter Rafferty, Martin McGaughey, Noel Bailie and Carling's Catherine Milligan.



Phil Grattan and Lee Redpath from Banbridge is pictured with Glenavon legend Gerard McMahon, Manager Marty Quinn and Carling's Lisa Morrow at Mourneview Park.



Lisburn Distillery legend Roy Welsh, current players Glenn Ferguson, Philip Matthews and manager Tommy Wright joined Jackie Fullerton and Carling's Lisa Morrow at the New Grosvenor Stadium





## Success for Irish junior handballers

The 53rd USHA Nationals took place in Chicago from 27-30 December 2009, and proved to be a very successful experience for the Irish junior squad under the Irish Management team of Ryan Daly (Tyrone) and Frances Ní Churraoin (Gaillimh).

### A total of 8 titles were won by Irish participants:

Boys 15 & Under Singles

Winner: Denis O'Neill (Cork)

Boys 17 & Under Singles

Winner: Killian Carroll (Cork)

Boys 13 & Under Doubles

Winners: Johnny Woods & Ryan Mullan (Tyrone)

Boys 17 & Under Doubles

Winners: Killian Carroll (Cork) & Conor McElduff (Tyrone)

Girls 15 & Under Singles

Winner: Ciana Ní Churraoin (Galway)

Girls 17 & Under Singles

Winner: Catriona Casey (Cork)

Girls 19 & Under Singles

Winner: Shauna Hilley (Wicklow)

Girls 19 & Under Doubles

Winners: Shauna Hilley

(Wicklow) & Catriona Casey (Cork)

Whilst in Chicago, the team had the opportunity to travel to Gaelic Park thanks to members of the North American GAA Board. A tour of the grounds and facilities was provided, and it was a very enjoyable experience.

The accomplishment in Chicago builds on previous



success at the World Championships last October in Portland for Irish handball and leaves handball in this country in good stead for the 2012 World Championships.

## Calling all club officers for county training sessions

Armagh was the first county in Ulster to receive the Ulster GAA's new Officer Training Programme on Saturday 9th January 2010.

The training session was open to all GAA clubs within County Armagh and the Ulster Council urged all club officers to attend,

including: Chairpersons, Secretaries, PROs, Treasurers, Children's Officers, Coaching Co-ordinators, Development Officers and Cultural/Community Officers.

Ahead of the event, Ulster GAA President Tom Daly said, "This Programme will provide club

officers with all the information and advice needed to carry out their role as a GAA club official, while developing the skills and talents of those tasked with ensuring good governance within their clubs."

Secretary of Armagh County Board Paddy Og Nugent said, "We are delighted that Armagh will be the very first county in Ulster to receive this training and I urge all clubs to ensure that they are well represented on the day. This half-day event will provide clubs with essential information and useful advice about running a GAA club. This is an event not to be missed for clubs."

All Clubs are asked to make a special effort to attend the training in their own county.



Anyone wishing to stay for lunch should let your County Secretary know by RSVP to email addresses below:

**6th February, Tyrone,**  
Loretto Grammar, Omagh  
secretary.tyrone@gaa.ie

**20th February, Fermanagh,**  
St Michael's Enniskillen  
secretary.fermanagh@gaa.ie

**6th March, Down,**  
St Malachy's Castletwellan  
secretary.down@gaa.ie

**13th March, Cavan,**  
St Patrick's  
secretary.cavan@gaa.ie

**20th March, Donegal,**  
venue TBC  
secretary.donegal@gaa.ie

**27th March, Monaghan,**  
St Macartan's College  
secretary.monaghan@gaa.ie

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# Sadness at death of Cavan GAA hero



*Mick Higgins, a true legend.*

The Ulster GAA community is saddened to hear of the death of Mick Higgins. Mick was a member of the Cavan All Ireland winning teams of 1947, 48 and 1952 in which he was the team Captain. He was the last surviving Cavan player from the famous All Ireland final played at the Polo Ground in New York.

Mick was born in New York and became the only player to be born outside of Ireland to win an All Ireland Senior

Championship medal outside of Ireland!

As part of the 125 Anniversary celebrations, Mick attended the seminar at the Cardinal Ó Fiaich Library on the 13th March and only 6 months ago, the 86-year-old took his place on the pitch on Ulster Final day alongside all of Ulster's All Ireland winning captains or a representative.

President of Ulster GAA, Tom Daly stated the following, "It is with great sadness that the GAA in Ulster learns of the death of Mick Higgins. He was a true gentleman, a great sportsman, an outstanding player and a lifetime committed member of the GAA. He will be long remembered for his playing ability and his successes as player for Cavan and Ulster but my abiding memory is of a quiet and forthright man that was committed to his wife Margaret,

son John, daughters Terry, Jean and Brenda, his clubs Mountnugent and Kilnaleck, Cavan, Ulster and the Gaelic Athletic Association. We were privileged to have known him and are the richer for it."

Mick, who lived in Virginia, was the oldest surviving captain from Ulster to have lifted the Sam Maguire cup. The Cavan great won three All Ireland medals, including one from the famous Polo Grounds final in 1947 when the Breffni Blues beat Kerry in New York.

In fact, Cavan played in nine All Ireland Finals between 1933-52, with Higgins sealing victory in the '52 decider after an exhibition of free-taking in a replay against Meath. He scored seven of Cavan's nine points in the 0-9 to 0-5 triumph.

"It was a wet day but I kicked a long point after four minutes

and I knew it was my lucky day", recalls Mick in an interview specially prepared for the Ulster Council video website.

Mick Higgins also revealed that he had been suffering from flu in the lead-up to the game but recovered to lead Cavan to glory. Modest Mick maintained that being the All Ireland winning captain did not 'excite' him as Cavan had plenty of successful captains before him and he was the captain because the honour always fell to the oldest player on the team.

When asked what he would like to be remembered for, Higgins replied, "That I never hit anyone, I played the game clean and I never was put off".

You can view a special interview with Mick Higgins on the Ulster GAA website at: [www.ulster.gaa.ie/2010/01/28/mick-higgins-rip/](http://www.ulster.gaa.ie/2010/01/28/mick-higgins-rip/)

## Gaelic Star celebrates 1st anniversary

They said it would never last, but Gaelic Star magazine, is celebrating a year in existence. It's testament to the driving force of publisher Francis McNally and the great support of the wider GAA community that Gaelic Star continues to go from strength to strength.

The magazine, featuring an eclectic mix of features, opinion and lifestyle stories has proved to be a winning formula with the readers.

Francis McNally said, "It was a huge risk to launch a magazine

in the middle of a recession but we were passionate about our publication and believed that GAA fans would support us. It has been a tough year but we have been amazed by the interest and goodwill shown towards Gaelic Star magazine. As we look ahead to 2010, Gaelic Star magazine is only going to get bigger and better.

For more information visit our [www.gaelicstar.com](http://www.gaelicstar.com)

**GaelicStar**



(L-R) Gaelic Star Sales Manager Sean Judge with Kilkennys Michael Fennelly, and Kerrys Darran O'Sullivan with Gaelic Star Editor and founder Francis McNally.

## Carling NI football writers' awards

### Neil McCafferty named Player of the Month

It's no coincidence that Dungannon Swift's shock success story this season has arrived at the same time as Neil McCafferty's rise to prominence at the club.

The former Charlton Athletic and Derry City midfielder has taken the Carling Premiership by storm since his switch from the Brandywell.

His exploits have not only shot the Stangmore Park club up to fifth in the table and into the semi-final of the Co-Operative Insurance Cup, he has now landed the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Player of the Month award for December.

In a month besieged by cancellations, McCafferty was the stand-out performer, scoring two goals from the centre of midfield along the way, bringing his tally for the season to nine.

"It has been a good month for me but all the credit has to go to the rest of the lads, it really is a team effort at Dungannon," said McCafferty.

We didn't play as many games as we would have liked but things are moving in the right direction for us. I'm glad to have scored a few goals this season too, even if most of them have come from the penalty spot. Winning this award means a lot and I want to thank Carling for their support of the game."

Portadown striker Gary McCutcheon finished second in the poll, with Kieran O'Connor of Cliftonville third.

### Eddie Patterson named Manager of the Month

While Boxing Day will be remembered for chaos and a flurry of red cards, it was easy to forget Cliftonville were the big winners on the day.

Liam Fleming goal took secured victory in the north Belfast derby against Crusaders, the Reds' sixth league success on the bounce.

The Solitude men are now being talked about as serious title contenders and boss Eddie Patterson has been named the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Championship Manager of the Month award for December in acknowledgement of their stunning form.

"I want to pay tribute to, first of all the hard work, time and effort put in by my backroom staff because this is not an individual honour just for me," said Patterson.

"The players are fantastic too. They are the ones who have to go across the white line and perform and I am so proud of what they are doing at the moment.

"The freezing weather conditions have halted our progress but hopefully we can quietly get on with our progression and see where it takes us. I also want to thank Carling for their continued support of our game."

### Championship Player of the Month

Matty Burrows' goals have lit up the Championship this season



Dungannon Swift's Neil McCafferty receives the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Player of the Month Award for December from Carling's Aisling Duffy and Carling referee Catherine Milligan.



Cliftonville Manager Eddie Patterson receives the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Manager of the Month award for December.

and it came as no surprise when Glentoran called him back to the Oval this month.

Burrows enjoyed a second successful loan spell at Loughgall and played a huge part in sending them to the top of the table. After bagging 10 goals in just five games, including two hat-tricks, the former Dundela striker has been named the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers

Championship Player of the Month award for December.

Carling's Aisling Duffy said, "Carling is delighted to be at the heart of local football, supporting local talent, and bringing local people back to the game.





# 1958

## Pele explodes on to the world's stage

The sixth World Cup in Sweden saw the explosion on to the world stage of arguably the greatest talent that has ever graced a football field, a 17 year-old Brazilian called Pele.

For the first time four British teams qualified: England, Scotland,

Northern Ireland and Wales. Before the Munich air crash great things had been expected of England, but the loss of Duncan Edwards, Roger Byrne and Tommy Taylor, then the omission of Stanley Matthews and Nat Lofthouse, an injury to Tom Finney in the first match and the refusal to pick Bobby Charlton saw England eliminated, without winning a game, in the play-offs for the quarter-finals. Scotland also failed to win a game and finished bottom of their group, but they did get their first World Cup point, a 1-1 draw with Yugoslavia.

Northern Ireland and Wales did much better, both going through to the quarter-finals, with Wales, with the indomitable John Charles out with an injury, only losing 1-0 to a goal by Pele. Pele scored three more goals in Brazil's 5-2 defeat of France to take them to the final.

Sweden, without doubt the slowest team in the tournament, had been a European power for a decade. To reach the final they had overcome Hungary, the Soviet Union and West Germany - and they were at home. When the tournament started their supporters had given them little chance, but as the team progressed a national orgy of chauvinism had been whipped up, which even threatened to prevent the semi-final against West Germany being played at all.

Before the final, Sweden's manager predicted that "Brazil would panic all over the show if they conceded an early goal". He got the Swedish goal he wanted in just four minutes, the first time Brazil had been behind in the tournament, but not the panic.

Within six minutes Brazil had equalised, and raised the tempo. Pele



*The line-up in the final match against Sweden: Vicente Feola (coach), Djalma Santos, Zito, Bellini, Nilton Santos, Orlando and Gilmar; Garrincha, Didi, Pelé, Vavá, Zagallo and Paulo Amaral (physical instructor).*

hit the post, then Brazil went ahead just after the half hour. Ten minutes after half-time Pele killed off the Swedes with a wickedly cheeky goal. In the midst of the penalty box he caught the ball on his thigh, hooked it over his head, spun round and crashed it into the net. Brazil got a fourth, Sweden a second, then Pele crowned the event with a majestic header and Brazil had their first World Cup, the first to be won by a country outside the host's continent.

## Sobers arrives with a big bang

Garry Sobers was the brightest star in a twinkling galaxy of young West Indian cricketers when Pakistan arrived for their first tour of the Caribbean. However, it was the little Pakistani opener Hanif Mohammad who dominated the first Test in Bridgetown by scoring 337 runs in 16hr 10min, the longest innings in a Test.



*Gary Sobers on his way to 365 not out.*

Sobers had to wait until the third Test at Sabina Park to reach his century. The pitch was true and fast and Pakistani bowlers were in short supply. Mahmood Hussain pulled a thigh muscle in his fifth delivery and the 16 year-old Nasim-ul-Ghani had an unmemorable debut cut short by a fractured thumb.

Sobers and Conrad Hunte put on 446 for the second wicket and when Hunte was run out for 260 Sobers was joined by Everton Weekes. Soon after he had settled, Weekes played a shot to mid-wicket and Sobers set off for a run. To his horror his partner had not moved and he was fortunate to regain his ground. It was the only chance he gave. On and on he batted ... 250 ... 300 ... 350.

When he had reached 363 Hanif was called up to bowl. Sobers struck the ball to long off and his single took him level with Len Hutton's record. Hanif asked the umpire if he could bowl left handed. "You can bowl with both hands if you like," Sobers suggested. The next ball was pushed into the covers. Sobers took a single to reach 365 not out and the crowd invaded the field to congratulate their hero.

## Also this year...

**Golf** - Sam Snead failed to qualify for the last 36 holes of the US Open for the first time in his 18 appearances at the tournament.

**Football** - Everton were the first club to install underground heating at a cost of £70,000. The experiment was not successful.

**Motor Racing** - Juan Fangio retired after the French Grand Prix.



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Saturday 6th February  
IRELAND v Italy - 14:30

Saturday 13th February  
France v IRELAND - 16:30

Saturday 27th February  
England v IRELAND - 16:00

Saturday 13th March  
IRELAND v Wales - 14:30

Saturday 20th March  
IRELAND v Scotland - 17:00



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