

Club Review

VOLUME 24 - Issue 4, 2011

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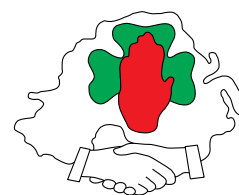
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Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in St Paul's, Belfast
on Tuesday 14th June 2011



Apologies were received on behalf of Raymond Connor, Dessie Moore and Joe Patterson.

The Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting, following which the Secretary, Bob McGlone, read the minutes of the May Executive meeting held in Donegal Celtic which were subsequently passed and proposed by Gerry Gallagher and seconded by Tommy McMinn as a true record.

Bob McGlone read details of a card expressing thanks for the assistance afforded to the Newry Independent by the N.I. Federation of Clubs. He continued to read details from correspondence received from Pubs of Ulster outlining details of the MTV Awards and the need for change to licensing laws to accommodate such events, which require licensing to extend beyond the current hours.

The Chairman and Secretary continued on the subject confirming the detail outlining this aspect of licensing legislation. The Chairman confirmed that while we agree in essence with Pubs of Ulster, it should be acknowledged that we foresaw this situation arising when big sporting events were taking place in other time zones throughout the world.

Of increased importance

however is the requirement of the sports club sector to form an all inclusive body to meet the Minister on this and other important issues.

North West delegate Gerry Gallagher provided details on the Derry City Forum and the editorial provided by John for inclusion in their magazine.

It was proposed to investigate the possibility of organising a day at the races for the club sector. However in-depth research is required before we can progress this matter further.

The Treasurer presented a financial report with explanations provided; this was passed as a true record.

Gerry Gallagher provided details of the N.I. Business Info website on which we are registered; the site provides various items of information such as contracts of employment. Gerry confirmed that he has registered and has utilised the site to provide a number of clubs in his area with contracts of employment and other important information.

The Chairman thanked St Paul's for hosting the meeting and especially to Mrs Pat Mallon for the excellent hospitality provided.

Bob McGlone,
Secretary

Holiday entitlement

At this time of year we are regularly asked about holiday entitlement. A common area people get confused with is whether bank holidays should be taken as part of the statutory allowance or on top.

All employees, whether full-time or part-time, are legally entitled to 5.6 weeks' paid annual leave. Additional annual leave may be agreed as part of a contract. A week's leave should allow employees to be away from work for a week i.e. it should be the same amount of time as the working week. If an employee works a five-day week, they are entitled to 28 days leave per annum. If an employee works a three-day week, the entitlement is 16.8 days leave per annum.

Employers can set the times that employees take their leave, for example for a Christmas shutdown. If an employment ends, the employee has a right

to be paid for the leave time due and not taken.

There is no statutory entitlement to paid leave for public holidays. Any right to paid time off for such holidays depends on the terms of the contract. If the contract does not specify this, the right to paid leave may have built up through custom and practice. Paid public holidays can be counted as part of the statutory 5.6 weeks' holiday entitlement under the Working Time Regulations 1998.

There are normally eight Public Holidays per year, although this year there was a ninth coinciding with the Royal Wedding.

If you are unsure about this or any other matter please feel free to contact the N.I. Federation of Clubs helplines and we'll be only too glad to help.

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Federation delighted at St Joseph's success!

The Federation was delighted to accept an invitation to visit the newly refurbished St Joseph's Independent Club in Kilmorey Street, Newry which has just recently re-opened. Having visited the club prior to the renovation we were able to fully appreciate the tremendous transition which has taken place. This really is a perfect example of what can be achieved. In this case it is a modern environment fit for purpose in which members and their guests can enjoy a pleasant friendly atmosphere.

It would have been unfortunate if a club with such a long and distinguished history had closed. Thankfully that was not the case and we, in the NIFC are delighted that this is

one of the success stories in an otherwise difficult economic climate.

As covered in the last issue of Club Review the club enjoyed a major success in 1923 when, competing against Britain's most famous combinations, the band won the Championship of Great Britain at Bellevue Gardens in Manchester. Never before had a band from Ireland won the blue riband of British bands!

This new landmark is yet another success and the way in which the club has re-invented itself should not be underestimated.

On reflection it is appropriate that the Federation Chairman,




Members of St Josephs Independent Club with Federation members in the newly refurbished clubrooms.

John Davidson, also a senior figure in Harland & Wolff F.S.C., has been engaged in advising the club during more difficult times, as, believe it or not, upon the band's return from their success in 1923, included among the well-

wishers, were the H&W Brass and Reed Band, something John was unaware of.



The Federation officers thanked the officers of St Joseph's for the wonderful welcome and hospitality extended to them.



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Finlay Communications Ltd

A quality local service for your club



The N.I. Federation of Clubs is delighted to announce that, following a meeting with local company, Finlay Communications, the Sky TV package, available to registered sports clubs which hold Federation membership, can now be sourced through them. A discussion with Ciaran Devine of Sky Television, with whom we have enjoyed an excellent association, has confirmed this arrangement is approved.

Formed in 1983, Finlay Communications Ltd is a local, cost effective, all-in-one provider for aerial, satellite and alternative entertainment solutions for both domestic and commercial customers. In 1989

the company was approached by Sky Television to assist with satellite system installations and maintenance in Northern Ireland and soon became the only authorised Sky installation partner in Northern Ireland for both domestic and commercial customers.

Following the successful contract fulfilment on behalf of Sky in Northern Ireland, Finlays was awarded the contract for 13 counties in Southern Ireland, covering all domestic installation work from Dublin and all areas north of the city.

In March 2008 the company was purchased by RBM Associates, a local group of businessmen,

committed to expanding the already strong brand name of Finlay Communications into alternative areas, such as "Smart Homes" technology, Satellite Broadband, Health & Safety Access Training and other industry related areas. This change saw Finlays become a member of the HiS Group, offering heating, insulation and energy renewable solutions.

With 70 local engineers based across N. Ireland and a further 20 in ROI, they are in a position to offer a prompt quality installation and repair service.

The company is an authorised retailer and installer on behalf of Sky for the following customers:

- Sky Business (commercial premises) – including 3D TV
- SHS (domestic customers)
- Sky Homes (apartment blocks / shared dish systems)

As well as Sky, Finlays also offer the following systems for installation or servicing:

- Freeview (digital aerial)
- Saorview (RTE digital aerial + Set-Top Box)
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- Two-way Satellite Broadband

If you have any questions about entertainment solutions available to you, give the company a call on 028 9045 5136 or call into their offices at: 17 Heron Road, Belfast BT3 9LE.

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EU Commissioner launches Peace Bridge

Welcoming the completion of the new Peace Bridge, President of the European Commission (EU), José Manuel Barroso, said, "The EU's structural funds have actively provided support to the region over the past 16 years, through the PEACE Programme. This financial assistance has helped drive forward thousands of projects and initiatives in support of the peace process. The Peace Bridge is one of the most significant of these projects and symbolises our shared hope for continued peace and improved prosperity for the citizens of Derry/Londonderry."

Officially opening the bridge, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, said, "One of the key objectives

of the EU is to bring people together to live in peace, with a common respect both for shared values and for diversity. The European Commission is particularly committed to helping the people of this region as they work towards the goal of lasting peace and prosperity. I believe that the Peace Bridge will help further this goal for the people of Derry/Londonderry. It will encourage greater levels of cross-community integration and usher in a new period of peace and reconciliation for the city."

The Mayor, Alderman Maurice Devenney, said the opening of the Peace Bridge is a significant occasion for everyone in the city. "The Peace Bridge will bring our



EU Commissioner, Johannes Hahn, opens the European Union funded Peace Bridge. Also pictured is: Enda Kenny TD; Peter Robinson MLA; Martin McGuinness MP MLA; and Nelson McCausland MLA.

communities together to help develop tourism, regeneration and good relations. The Peace Bridge reflects the positive way in which our city is moving

forward as we prepare to celebrate our unique history, culture and heritage in preparation for the UK City of Culture 2013".

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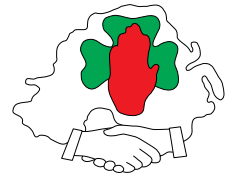
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2011 N.I. Federation of Clubs Annual Dinner & Dance



We are delighted to complete our coverage of the 2011 Dinner and Dance of the N.I. Federation of Clubs held at the Members' Rooms, King's Hall, Belfast.

We wish to thank members for the many positive comments we have received following the evening.

At this stage the date for the 2012 Dinner and Dance has not been confirmed. Confirmation of the final date will be published in due course.

We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Pictures courtesy of 'The Party Press'.



Executive committee member, Joe Patterson, with guests and members of Goodyear Sports & Social Club.



(l-r) Kathleen McMinn, Carol Davidson and Eileen McCartney.



Bangor FC & Social Club.



Representatives from Carrickfergus Amateur Band & Social Club.



(l-r) Isobel Crossy, Marie McKee and friend.

Annual Dinner & Dance



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Cathy McGoldrick and Arthur Draine.
2. Tommy Brown with his wife Rhoda.
3. Members of The Galaxy Showband.
4. Representatives of the West Belfast Social Club.
5. Federation executive committee member, Jim Wilson.
6. Representatives of the East Belfast Working Men's Club.
7. Mr Joe Murphy from the insurance industry and guest.



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14

8. Representatives of the R.A.O.B. Carrickfergus.
9. R.A.O.B., Belfast guests enjoyed the evening.
10. Federation executive committee member, Phillip Mallon with his wife Pat.
11. Mr John O'Neill and Mrs L. Shearer.
12. Mr Brian Kennedy and guest.
13. Representatives of the Ulster Maple Leaf Club.
14. Representatives of the R.A.O.B. H.Q. Belfast.

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Questions & Answers

Q. Can you elaborate on the changes to the pensions schemes that employers will have to provide to employees from 2012?

A. Whilst the changes are coming into effect from 2012 for large businesses, it is unlikely that small businesses will be affected until 2013/2014 as the changes are being phased in gradually. However, no definite time line has yet been published.



The enrolment process will be simple and an employee may choose to opt out of the pension, if they wish. The Club will make a minimum contribution to the scheme. To help employers and employees adjust gradually, the plan is to phase in the minimum contribution levels. As with the aforementioned timeline, specific details over the phasing in of minimum contribution levels and what these levels will be have not been announced yet.

We will continue to provide updates as new details are announced.

Q. We have been informed by a Member that we are required to offer wine in measurements of 125ml in addition to the

175ml and 250ml measures already offered? Is this the case?

A. In October 2010 a new mandatory code for selling alcohol came in to force and as part of this was the requirement that wine must be offered to customers in 125ml measurements.

In practice, this means:


- All wine lists must state that 125ml measures are available
- This must not be hidden in the small print but made very clear - font size should match that used for larger measures

However, it is not necessary to show prices for 125ml measures and a simple one line explanation such as this will

suffice: "We also serve wine in 125ml measures."

Q. I currently hold the position of Secretary and my husband is considering standing for the role of Chairman. Is it acceptable for a husband and wife to hold two of the positions on the same Committee?

A. Should your husband be selected to the position of Chairman then there would be no reason under the Rules to prevent you continuing in your role as the Secretary of the Club. The Rules regard Members as individuals in their own right. Members are able to be nominated for office and it is not uncommon for Members of the same family group to serve on a Committee together.




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Many happy returns

Kevin Lennon, Bangor Engineers & Trades Social Club, and his wife Joan, were among the guests at Hillsborough Castle celebrating the Queen's birthday.

Guests enjoyed the spectacle of the traditional, 21 Gun Royal Salute being fired by officers and soldiers from 206 (Ulster) Battery, Royal Artillery (Volunteers), drawn from Territorial Army Units in Coleraine and Newtownards.

The occasion which was mirrored with similar events across the UK, provided an opportunity for the Reserve



Joan Lennon (left), was delighted to have a relaxing day out with husband Kevin, from the Bangor Engineers & Trades Social Club. They are pictured with Athene Gordon of SaBRE.

Forces and Cadets Association N.I. and SaBRE (Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers), to give the business community an update on the work of the Reserve Forces.

Diageo Reserve crowns Ireland's World Class Bartender of the Year

WORLD CLASS
RAISING THE BAR

With only one month to go until the Diageo Reserve World Class Bartender of the Year Global Finals in New Delhi, India, Javier Bravo from Cork has been named as Ireland's representative at the landmark event of the super-premium spirits world.

Javier fought off strong competition at the fiercely contested Irish final, held in Dublin on Monday 13th June. Raf Agapito from Dublin and Sylvia Carcagno from Kerry, tied in second place.

As Ireland's Diageo Reserve World Class Bartender of the Year, Javier will now join 33 other contenders from the most

prestigious bars around the globe, to shake, stir and pour his way across six challenges with the aim of lifting the global title.

The World Class Ireland final was judged by an expert panel including World Class Global Ambassador, Spike Marchant; Tanqueray Master Distiller, Thomas Nichol; and Tanqueray Brand Ambassador, Barrie Wilson.

No stranger to the judging trail, Spike joined the judging panel after performing similar duties at the



Ireland's World Class Bartender of the Year, Javier Bravo from Cork.

finals in India, Puerto Rico, Columbia and Mexico. He said, "It was a closely fought race with a second place tie between Sylvia and Raf. Sylvia had exceptional instinct for taste and was ambitious with flavours while Raf's charm and bartending skill shone through, making them both strong contenders. However, Javier's calmness, focus and spirits knowledge, allied with exceptional skill, made him a worthy winner. There is no doubt Javier will be a wonderful representative for

Ireland's elite bartending community."

Sarah Douglas, Reserve Brands Manager at Diageo Ireland, said, "The Ireland heat brought the World Class Ireland competition to a fantastic climax. Javier was successful in fighting off some strong competition and will be a great representative for Ireland at the Global Final."

Follow the Global Final on the World Class Global Facebook page: www.facebook.com/GlobalWorldClassFinals

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The party's Hivin' with Magners

It was the night that Summer came alive – and then some! More than six hundred revellers swarmed to the ultimate one-off party at the new Magners Hive when it popped up as if by magic at Down Royal racecourse.

The giant inflatable hosted a never-to-be-forgotten party experience with everything from an outside broadcast of Cool FM's The Source and live music from the Jamie Noonan Band to a visit by FM High Street Honey Katie Larmour; a techie treat with interactive robots and even a touch of burlesque style from the Magners Candy girls! Add to that more than a hundred prizes on the night, some incredible craic and Magners over ice and you had all the ingredients for one very cool evening.

Magners Marketing Manager, James Simpson, was understandably delighted at the success of a night, which marked a decided change of pace for the brand. He says, "The Hive concept has been specially created to ramp up our engagement with younger consumers, bringing them right into the quirky Magners world of our TV campaigns with a slightly surreal sociability.

"Tickets for the gig could only be won on air or in-trade and we were deliberately vague about the plans for the party. We wanted people to be intrigued, then amazed – and they were. The social networks have been buzzing ever since and the speculation is already rife about when and where the Magners Hive will spring up next.

"The plan is for the Magners Hive to pop up in some



James Simpson, Magners Marketing Manager, surrounded by some of the party revellers, Aisling and Fionnula Cahill.

unlikely places, each time with something different, amazing, and very Magners going on inside – but we're keeping our schedule very firmly under wraps!"

Choosing Down Royal for the first outing of The Magners Hive proved inspirational. It was the first time that the location had ever been used for such an event and, although the Hive didn't open until after the racing, the giant structure proved a 'Magners magnet' for curious crowds of racegoers at the Magners Derby.

James said, "We don't believe in doing things by halves and we were delighted to have such a major presence at the biggest and richest meet of the year. Our support for the Magners Derby illustrated our

determination to maintain a major presence for Magners amongst our core market, while the arrival of the Magners Hive

showcased our focus on the future. As we say here, 'There's method in the Magners'".



Partygoers Adam Robb, Ryan Bell and Johnny Wilson with the Magners Candy Cane girls who added a touch of burlesque style to the party.

100 years on... Belfast launches a new Titanic

A century ago, at 12.13pm on Wednesday 31st May, 1911 to be exact, more than 100,000 people witnessed R.M.S Titanic, as it launched into the still, deep waters of Belfast Lough.

At the time, Titanic was the largest man-made moving object, and a shining example of the skill of the world famous Harland & Wolff ship yard. It was therefore fitting that on 31st May 2011 a smaller yet still significant crowd of VIP's and well-wishers gathered in Belfast to witness the world launch of Titanic Irish Whiskey.

The creation of the newly formed Belfast Distillery Company, Titanic Irish Whiskey

is the first whiskey brand to emanate from the city of Belfast in nearly 100 years. Indeed the last whiskey distillery in Belfast closed 75 years ago and marked the end of the great era of Belfast as the most important whiskey-producing centre in the island of Ireland. Unknown to most people today, in the same era when Titanic was being launched, Belfast produced nearly half the total whiskey produced in Ireland.

The launch event was hosted by Howard Hastings, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. The first two whiskeys in the Titanic range, a 5 & 10 year old, were presented to the enthusiastic and thirsty guests by

Derek Hardy of the Belfast Distillery Company. Asked about their reasons for naming their whiskey after the most famous of Belfast built ships Titanic, Derek Hardy

commented that the company felt it was important for Belfast to take huge pride in its great history of ship building and whiskey distilling and what better way to celebrate this than with the launch of a new whiskey brand from Belfast bearing the Titanic name. He further added that the Belfast Distillery Company had, as it's long-term objective to once again establish Belfast as the distilling capital of Ireland.

Peter, who has been a driving force behind the creation of both the Belfast Distillery Company and Titanic brand, dusted off his old bus driver's uniform for the occasion and arrived at the launch driving a 50 year old double-decker bus,

tastefully branded with the impressive Titanic Whiskey logo.

Peter told the assembled crowd that the Belfast Distillery Company had within its portfolio two key brands, the new Titanic, and Danny Boy, which has already gained considerable success in the American and other world markets. He further revealed that plans were well developed for the company to open, within the next 18 months, the first distillery to be built in Belfast for 130 years, adding that not only would the new distillery be a return to the great whiskey producing days of Belfast's past but would in the future also provide important employment for the people of the city.



Peter Lavery, Managing Director of the Belfast Distillery Company, with Model Kellyanne McKendry, launching the 10 year old Titanic Irish Whiskey blend.



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New hygiene rating scheme launched

Businesses from Northern Ireland's food and drinks sector are being urged to get behind a major, nationwide, scheme designed to inform consumers about the food hygiene ratings of local food outlets.

The new Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS), operated by the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland in partnership with district councils, launched on June 6 and is set to improve food hygiene standards across the province. The scheme sees Environmental Health Officers, as part of their normal food safety inspections, rate premises against the FHRS criteria. Premises are rated on a scale from zero to five with zero meaning 'urgent improvement necessary' and a five rating

representing a 'very good' level of compliance with food safety law. Premises receiving a three rating are considered 'generally satisfactory' or broadly compliant.

The new FHRS offers a number of benefits to business, including an appeal procedure, a 'right to reply' for publication (together with the food hygiene rating) at www.food.gov.uk/ratings, and a mechanism for requesting a re-inspection/re-visit, for the purposes of re-rating when improvements have been made. Environmental Health Officers are also on hand to offer advice on how to get a rating improved.

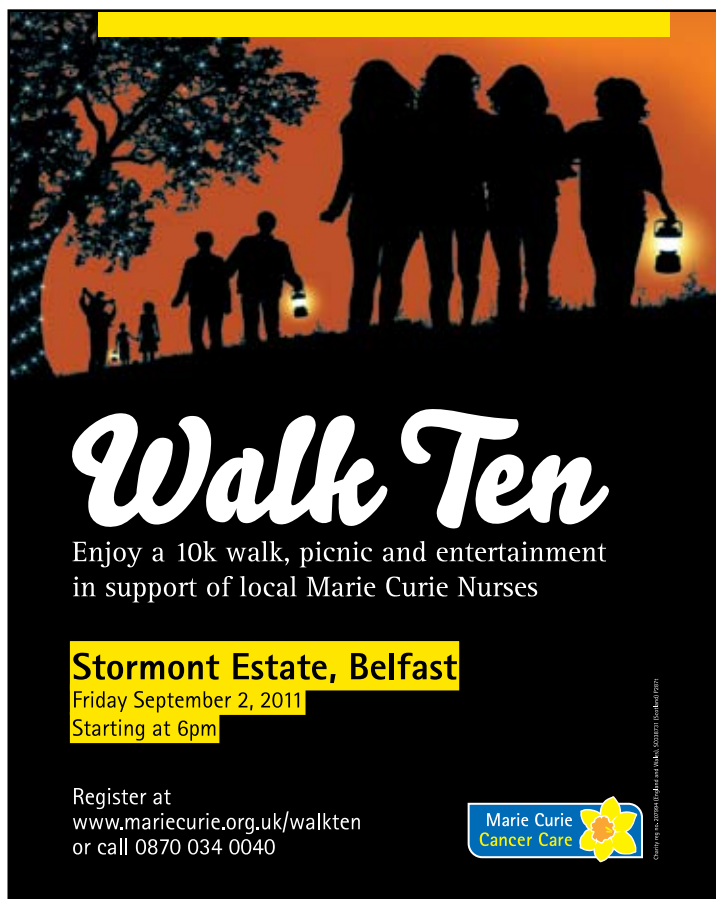
Under the new scheme, the food hygiene ratings of over



Michael Jackson, Head of Food Safety and Operations, Food Standards Agency NI, is joined by Michele Shirlow, Food NI.

11,000 food outlets across NI, from local takeaways and restaurants to hotels and bed and breakfasts, will be available

online at www.food.gov.uk/ratings. Outlets will also be encouraged to display their ratings at their premises.



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Eminem headlines Tennent's Vital



Pete Snodden from Cool FM is pictured with Aisling Duffy Head of Marketing for Tennent's NI celebrating the announcement that Eminem one of the biggest music stars on the planet will be headlining the second day of the Festival at Ward Park Bangor on 24th August.

New wine range announced from UWM

Lurgan based drinks supplier United Wine Merchants is welcoming Bella Vie, a unique new rosé wine label into its portfolio.

Sourced from Italy, Bella Vie has been crafted specifically to appeal to the palates of UK female consumers in their early 20's by delivering a refreshing, sweet and fruity taste experience.

"This addition to our portfolio is a major coup and one which will appeal to a key target audience within the rosé category, as young female consumers have taken ownership of this market. While this announcement

coincides with what many people would consider to be the traditional rosé-drinking time, summer, research indicates that this new generation of rosé drinkers is actually revolutionizing how it is consumed, with 60% of rosé drinkers enjoying it throughout the year," commented Melanie Talbot, United Wine Merchants' Marketing Manager.



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ATM's that work for you

Billboard fame for Tennent's Sixes winners

It was a big win for small-sided football. 18 teams from across Northern Ireland recently competed in the final of the all-new Tennent's Sixes Tournament and Sparta Belfast from South and East Belfast scored a 1:0 win against Inverary Caledonian Thistle from East Belfast to lift the 2011 title.

The new champions took home the prestigious Tennent's Sixes trophy, £500 and a branded strip after hard fought knock out finals at PlayBall, Stormont.

This is a competition that thinks big and the winners get more than bragging rights: they'll be celebrating in appropriately big time style with their winning photo used as a giant billboard in their home town!

It's a unique finishing touch for a competition which has so successfully tapped into the heartfelt passion for football demonstrated by the thousands of 6-a-siders across Northern Ireland. From the near-professional to the distinctly disorganised, from big town heroes to the team that's been cobbled together in Ballygobackwards, these are the players who keep small



Tennent's Marketing Manager, Paul McGurk from Tennent's NI is pictured with Sparta Belfast, the winning 6-a-side team of the Tennent's Sixes Tournament 2011.

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sided football alive and, as the Tennent's Sixes 2011 has proved, their enthusiasm and their love of soccer are matched by real skills.

Congratulating the tournament winners, Paul McGurk, Tennent's Marketing Manager, says, "Some of the skills and passion we've seen on the pitch have at times been superb. These are guys that love their sport and it shows when they get on the pitch.

"Small-sided soccer has a unique sociability. The players take their game seriously, but they also enjoy to the full the camaraderie and craic which surround the 'Beautiful Game' at amateur level.

"When we at Tennent's wanted to put our mark on football in Northern Ireland and make a meaningful contribution to the playing experience, this proved a perfect match for us. Our

brand has long-standing football credentials, most recently demonstrated through the sponsorship of Old Firm Clubs Rangers and Celtic in its native Scotland where football and lager are firmly established as national obsessions. With that background and having asked local players what they would like to see to improve their footie experience, we created the all-new Tennent's Sixes. It's fun, certainly, but we've been as serious about making this a great tournament as we are serious about making great lager.

"The competition has been fantastic and we're looking forward to seeing the winners' billboard appearing almost as much as the winning team. The prize packages throughout the tournament were obviously extremely popular but it's blowing up the winning team's photo to giant poster that has really got everyone talking this year!"

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- Dedicated marketing support programme
- Investing in the local community.

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Magners North of Ireland Golf Championship

Tees off with winner Darren!

It's one of the most sought after and hotly contested titles in Amateur Golf, with an alumni that reads like a who's who of sporting excellence: the Magners North of Ireland Amateur Golf Championship.

Darren Clarke officially launched the week-long Magners North of Ireland Amateur Golf Championship which will run from Monday 11th to Friday 15th July, when it could help launch the careers of more golfing stars of the future.

Chairman of The Golfing Union of Ireland (Ulster Branch), Mr Ivor McCandless said, "We are extremely proud that past winners of our tournament have made a huge impact on the international golf scene and we are confident that this year's tournament will once again be showcasing some amazing talent. This has been the latest in a series of fantastic years for Irish golf, both at home and on the world stage,

and we're expecting some great things from the 300 amateurs who will tee-off on the opening day of this, the largest amateur golf championship in Ireland."

Looking forward to the ninth year of the brand's involvement with the Championship, James Simpson, Magners Marketing Manager, said, "It is a huge privilege to have Darren Clarke with us today to launch this year's tournament."

"We are delighted to have forged this highly successful partnership with the Golfing Union of Ireland (Ulster Branch) and the quality of the Magners North of Ireland Amateur Golf Championship sits perfectly with Magners, a product which prides itself on being Northern Ireland's No.1 cider brand - our key values of craft and heritage are epitomised by the ethos of golf, and the tournament has become an integral part of Magners high profile sports portfolio.

"I must congratulate all those whose skill and dedication to the sport have taken them this far. I know the competition will be of the highest possible standard and I wish all the players well."

Chairman of the Golfing Union of Ireland Ulster Branch, Mr Ivor McCandless, went on to thank the sponsors Magners for their continued support of what has become the largest Amateur Golf Championship on the island of Ireland.



Darren Clarke is joined by James Simpson, Magners Marketing Manager, at the launch of this year's Magners North of Ireland Golf Championship.

WKD scores a bullseye with darts sponsorship

WKD is set to gain nationwide exposure through a new, high-profile sponsorship association with the world of darts. The leading RTD and cider brand will be the Professional Darts Corporation's (PDC) Official Drink for three key tournaments in 2011. WKD will maximise its associations through innovative promotions and in-outlet activities.

The three-event deal will see WKD feature prominently at the World Matchplay in July

in Blackpool, the Grand Slam of Darts in Wolverhampton in November and the World Darts Championships starting in December in London. The three tournaments run across 38 days in total and will be screened live on Sky Sports. WKD logos will appear prominently on players' shirts and on high-profile venue branding, highlighting WKD's involvement to over 18 million TV viewers nationwide and to 65,000 fans attending the competitions.

In the lead up to each tournament, sought-after tickets to sold-out key sessions will be offered as prizes via social networking sites. Online promotions will also give consumers the chance to win darts shirts signed by leading players, and other darts-related merchandise.

Debs Carter, Marketing Director for Beverage Brands, owner of WKD, says, "Having forged a highly successful link with the PDC last year, it's great



to expand our involvement and see WKD step up on the oche with a really comprehensive programme of sponsorship and in-outlet support. Fans attending tournaments will have a truly WKD time and our online promotions and outlet-based activities will ensure there are plenty of other ways for people to get involved in true WKD style."

Rory's triumphant return to Hollywood

A large crowd was present in Rory McIlroy's home club in Hollywood, County Down.

He said returning with the US Open trophy was "a special moment".

Rory's eight-shot victory on Sunday made him the youngest winner of the event since 1923.

His success followed that of his compatriot and friend, Graeme McDowell, who clinched the same title in 2010.

Rory said, "To come back to the club I spent every day at for the first 20 years of my life, brings back a lot of good memories" continuing he said that, "to come back with this trophy is very special and hopefully it is not the last Major I come back with."

The new world number four said he was "very aware" that he was now going to be portrayed as a role model for a lot of young people in Northern Ireland and across the world. I know there will be a lot of expectations on me, a lot of pressure, but hopefully I am well enough equipped to deal with that."

He played down suggestions that he was the golfing equivalent of fellow countryman and football superstar George Best in terms of talent.

"George Best was an absolute hero back in the 1960s and 1970s," he said. "If I am as good on the golf course as George Best was on a football pitch then I will be very happy."

Rory has been congratulated by several leading figures in the

sporting world including tennis stars Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray.

The BBC learned on Wednesday that as a child at the Hollywood club, McIlroy had cheekily signed a golf card "Rory McIlroy, US Open Champion".

"I have always been a big dreamer, I have always had very high hopes and expectations," he said.

Rory also said he felt Royal Portrush and Royal County Down golf clubs were capable of hosting the Open in the future, but that the region needed 10 years to put the appropriate infrastructure in place.

The N.I. Federation of Clubs are delighted with this achievement by a young player who is an outstanding example of Northern Ireland's sporting talent and a credit to his family.

It was good to hear Rory acknowledge his early days at Hollywood Golf Club.

Federation Chairman, John Davidson feels that together with the Northern Ireland Sports Forum, the GAA, the Golfing Union of Ireland and

others that sporting clubs of all kinds have a valuable role to play in encouraging young people to engage in sporting and leisure activity and feel that the recent amendments to the legislation pertaining to sports clubs will be invaluable to this end.

The achievement of local sports people on the world stage is beyond all expectation when one considers the size of Northern Ireland, the local

facilities available and level of financial support against that provided in other regions of the UK

Perhaps this latest success by young Rory McIlroy and that of Graham McDowell will help redress the situation.

Well done Rory from everyone in the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs.



A triumphant Rory McIlroy with the US Open trophy.

UGAAWA Merit Award Winner

Aaron was the odd-man-out in the Kernan household but not any longer. Dad Joe and brothers Stephen, Tony and Paul are all former winners of the Quinn Direct/UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award and now the list is completed as Aaron Kernan's name is pencilled into the honours' list as the winner for May 2011.

"The circle is now completed," he cracked, "and I'm delighted with receiving the award. It's a very valuable award and I know the rest of the family, who have received it in the past, appreciated it very much, as I do now. I've been to the Merit Award presentation many times in the past when family members were winners, now it's my turn to have the spotlight."

Wing half-back Kernan was the hub on which Armagh revolved in their USFC win against Down as he drove his team forward. From his No.5 spot and managed to hit five points, two from play, in the Orchard County's 1-15 to 1-10 victory.

Kernan (27) has been



Armagh's Aaron Kernan receives the Ulster GAA Writers award for May, from Chris Breen, Quinn Insurance, and JP Graham, Chairman Ulster GAA Writers.

Picture by Michael Cullen.

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seven years in the Armagh senior football panel and he has shared in both the ups and downs of the team. He has played in defence and attack but prefers the No.5 spot from where he can make defence splitting runs into the heart of the opposition rearguard.

Kernan won the May Award of an engraved Belleek Living vase, specially designed silver cufflinks from Omeath jeweller Garrett Mallon, training gear from O'Neill's International Sports, a sports voucher from

UGAAWA plus two tickets and overnight accommodation for the associations' annual banquet on 18th November.

He won the award ahead of Antrim hurler, Neil McManus, who hit 11 points against Laois in the LSHC, and Jamie Clarke who also starred against Down.

The presentation was made by Fermanagh goalkeeper Chris Breen, Business Risk Assistant Manager Quinn Insurance.

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Real Madrid stage a command performance

Seven years after Ferenc Puskas and the Hungarians shattered the cosy confidence of British football, Puskas returned and demonstrated in mesmerising style that, even at the age of 33, genius is still genius. In tandem with Alfredo di Stefano, also 33, the pair scored seven goals as Real Madrid retained the European Cup and dazzled Eintracht Frankfurt in the final at Hampden.



On May 18, 127,000 spectators, and millions more watching on television, saw for themselves why Real Madrid had won five consecutive European finals and were the undoubted masters of Europe.

Eintracht, who had beaten Rangers in the semi-final 12-4 on aggregate, started well, taking the lead in the 19th minute. But they were completely swept away as Puskas and di Stefano ran riot. Within 11 minutes di Stefano had put the Spanish champions 2-1 up. Puskas added two more either side of the break, then a fifth. If that were not enough, there were four more goals in the space of four minutes. Puskas got his fourth in the 70th minute. Stein pulled one back for Eintracht, but straight from the re-start di Stefano completed his hat-trick. Two minutes later Stein scored the Germans' third: 7-3.

The Germans had been overwhelmed and Glasgow had enjoyed a football feast. Not a soul left the stadium until the victors had completed their lap of honour with a trophy that will forever be associated with Real Madrid.

Piggott leaves it too late

For once, Lester Piggott's tactics failed him. He had won his fourth Classic in five years on Petite Etoile in the 1959 Oaks, and the grey filly was expected to make a mere formality of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes on July 17. But Piggott was criticised for leaving her in last place as the field entered the straight and, with too much to make up, the 5-2 on favourite was beaten by half a length.

Liston brawls into contention

As Floyd Patterson was having his troubles with a tiresome Swede a new force was working his way up the heavyweight rankings - Sonny Liston. He was a brute of a fighter with a record to match, in the ring and with the courts.



Sonny Liston.

Liston, a product of a broken home and terrible poverty, had been imprisoned for armed robbery, and he had discovered boxing in jail. By the end of 1961 he had won 33 of his 34 professional fights.

Match-point specialist excels

Neale Fraser had a reputation for saving match points when he reached the men's final at Wimbledon. The Australian saved six match points against his countryman Rod Laver before losing 5-7 3-6 6-3 8-6 8-6 in the Australian final. And he saved another half-dozen match points against Butch Buchholz in the quarter-final at Wimbledon before the American retired with cramp at 15 games all in the fourth set.



Fraser left nothing to chance in the first Wimbledon final between two left-handers and, with his big serve on song, he triumphed over Laver 6-4 3-6 9-7 7-5. He then won a second successive United States title, beating Laver 6-4 6-4 10-8.

Also this year...

Football - Jock Stein made his managerial debut in charge of the relegation-stricken Dunfermline in March. Nobody, least of all Stein, thought it was possible to escape the drop as maximum points were needed from six matches. Dunfermline began by beating Celtic, Stein's former club, won the next five games and duly stayed up..

Motor Racing - Colin Chapman's Lotus recorded their first Grand Prix victory at Monaco on May 29. The race was not won by a member of the Lotus team, but by Stirling Moss who had privately entered the car.

Athletics - Armin Hary, a German sprinter, became the first man to run 100m in 10 seconds in Zurich on June 21.

Rugby Union - Anti-apartheid protesters launched an unsuccessful campaign to prevent New Zealand touring South Africa.

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