

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

Club Review

VOLUME 25 - Issue 6, 2012



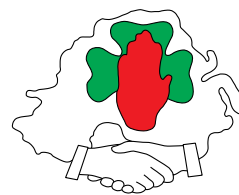
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Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the H&W Welders F.S.C., Belfast,
on Wednesday 5th September 2012



The Chairman welcomed a full executive to this, the first meeting following the holiday break. The Secretary, Bob McGlone, read the minutes of the previous meeting held at the Belfast Indoor Bowling Club. The minutes were subsequently proposed and seconded by Raymond Connor and Joe Patterson.

The Chairman covered details of 'HIS Solar Energy' which has the potential to provide savings on electricity costs. Terry Doyle of 'HIS Energy' has informed us that the legal documentation is nearing completion and will be available shortly. This

was followed by an update on Airtricity tariffs by the PRO following the announcement by Power NI that their tariff will be reduced by 14% from 1st October 2012. Airtricity tariffs will also be reduced by approximately 5 to 5.5% although it is likely a more substantial discount will be afforded.

The Chairman provided an overview of the meetings with our associated suppliers following the announcement that Diageo products, apart from keg beer, are to be outsourced. The meetings with respective company representatives provided the

basis for the endorsement of clubs utilising the services of the aforesaid associated suppliers with the chairman and executive committee agreeing that this is a win win situation for clubs. Editorial to that effect will be prepared for Club Review with an endorsement for our associated suppliers to include, Dillon Bass, Drinks Inc., Britvic, Musgrave, Coca-Cola, McCabes, Philip Russell, United Wines Merchants and Makro, although the only difficulty with Makro at this stage is that they do not deliver.

The Chairman continued to promote the view that respective companies are now likely to afford promotions of one kind or another, something which, by and large, has not been available up to now.

The Treasurer, Davy Larmour, read a financial report covering June and July 2012 providing information on the various details related to income and expenditure. Upon completion the report was proposed and seconded as a true record by Tommy McMinn and Gerry Gallagher.

The Chairman provided an overview of the Minister's consultation document on which we met with Kevin Stevens of the Golfing Union of Ireland (Ulster branch) and Katie Nixon of the N.I. Sports Forum. Both have been provided with a copy of our submissions for further consideration. Further copies have also been forwarded to the Northern Cricket Union and the GAA Ulster branch. The Chairman

then covered an addition made to the consultation document regarding a club holding an event outside their immediate club rooms, but nevertheless on their own property. He continued to explain the detail of this grey area and the very good reasons why it has to be clarified.

The PRO, Harry Beckinsale, conveyed details of progress on BSKyB explaining that Ciaran Devine of BSKyB has been in contact with the Federation accountant to finalise BSKyB requirements for implementation of the new price tariff. It is proposed that the new tariff will focus on the size of a club based on turnover with our proposal being that the maximum tariff be £400. To date member clubs have been benefiting from the Club Package, however we are committed to assisting clubs with a small turnover through a reduced costing structure, something made ever more important in these difficult economic times.

The matter of the proposal made at the AGM to increase the Federation membership fee was discussed in some detail with agreement that this should be put on hold until the 2013 AGM. It was thought appropriate to hold any such increase in consideration of the continuing recession even though the proposed increase was nominal.

This concluded the meeting at which point the club was thanked for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality provided.

Bob McGlone, Secretary

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Gaming machine maximum payouts

It has come to our attention that a supplier has been promoting a jackpot machine with a prize of £500 which, as you may or may not know, is illegal in registered clubs under Northern Ireland's Gambling Legislation. While the £500 jackpot is permitted in mainland UK, be assured it is certainly not the case in Northern Ireland where quite separate gambling legislation is in place which limits such machines to a £250 jackpot.

We have covered these matters previously and have even engaged in a consultation process to review Northern Ireland's Gambling Legislation, yet things remain unchanged. We continue to advise members to avoid temptation if it is put

in your way. Discussions with our associated suppliers allows us to provide the best advice to members and needless to say we appreciate the said advice they provide.

The Federation have investigated this matter at length and can assure clubs that they should not be tempted to install £500 jackpot machines in their club as they will be in breach of the gambling legislation currently in force in N. Ireland.

Our associated suppliers are fully aware of what is and what is not permitted and, although available to them, they have informed us in a proactive manner, that they do not offer these machines to our members.

Although a temptation may exist to install one of these machines in your club, it is incumbent upon us to make you aware of the legislation in order to safeguard you from potential legal action from the authorities who police such matters.



For further information contact your games machine supplier or call the Federation Helplines.

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Linneweber 2 cases

Rejections not the end

A number of claims for repayment of VAT under Linneweber 2 have received rejections, however we are pleased to make you aware that all is not lost as you can request your appeal to be stood-over awaiting the outcome of the Rank case currently being pursued.

Unfortunately we do not hear of all the rejections as it would seem that not all accountants may be aware of the procedure to be followed. Thankfully we have been able to provide advice for some clubs with the assistance of the Federation accountant Lawrence Shearer who, as one would expect, is fully conversant with the way in which appeals have to be made.

Clubs which have received rejections should question their respective accountants on this important issue. The Federation suggested from the outset and continue to suggest that clubs should avail of the service provided by Lawrence Shearer to address this matter for what is a nominal fee.

Be aware that the deadline for lodging appeals is related to the date stated on the rejection letter, so act now. Should the Rank case be successful those clubs with an appeal lodged within the required time-frame are likely to benefit from a greater refund of VAT than that of the first reclaim so this is by no means a trivial matter.

New minimum wage rates now in force

On 1st October 2012, the National Minimum Wage was increased.

The new rates are:

Persons aged 21+
Old rate £6.08
New rate £6.19

Persons aged 18-20
Rate held as per 2011 £4.98

Persons aged 16-17
Rate held as per 2011 £3.68

The apprentice rate, for apprentices under 19 or 19+ and in the first year of their apprenticeship
Old rate £2.60
New rate £2.65

**NATIONAL
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All clubs are advised to make sure that contracts are up to date and reflect the new rate(s) where appropriate.

Further information on this or other employment issues can be obtained from the Labour Relations Agency www.lra.org.uk

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Machine Games Duty

Your questions answered

We operate machines at the moment and expect to do so after 1 February. When do we have to register for MGD?

You must apply for registration before 1 January 2013. You can register after 1 November 2012 and HMRC encourages you to register as soon as you can after this date as this will mean that any queries can be resolved in good time for the start of MGD on 1 February 2013.

Further guidance about the registration process will be published in due course.

Is there a minimum limit below which it is not necessary to register for MGD?

No, even if there is only one machine and it's rarely used you still need to register.

How do I calculate MGD due?
Standard MGD is:

Net takings (gross takings less winnings) x 20% (There is a lower 5% rate but this only applies to machines with a maximum stake of 10p and a maximum prize of £8)

Will HMRC provide further guidance on what records it expects clubs to keep for the purposes of MGD?

Yes. There will be a Notice published on the HMRC website covering this and other issues later in the year.

Do we have to pay MGD or VAT on B3A machines?

B3A machines are exempt from MGD and VAT.

Are pull tab lottery dispensers liable to MGD?

All the pull tab machines HMRC are aware of do not

allow the playing of dutiable games on a machine. The machine is a means of dispensing tickets. If a machine works differently, then the takings may be liable to MGD

My club profit shares with our machine supplier. How will the switch to MGD affect this arrangement?

This depends on the precise details of the profit share. It will usually be the club that will be liable to register for and pay MGD. This will be a change if it is currently the supplier that pays for the AMLD licence.

Machine Games Duty (MGD) will replace Amusement Machine Licence Duty on February 1. It will be payable on profits from machines with cash prizes including some machines that are not gaming machines such as quiz machines.

Registration for MGD opens on November 1 and clubs must register with Revenue & Customs (HMRC) by January 1 or face a penalty. This is to ensure that HMRC has enough time to process all applications and issue registration certificates.

HMRC have produced a series of questions and answers, a selection of which are below. For the full set of questions and more information go to HMRC, or ring 0845 010 9000 during working hours.

If the club is liable to register and does not do so then MGD liability may fall on the supplier. This may mean that the supplier will carry out a check to ensure the club is registered.

Can I recover VAT on machine rentals?

This depends on the period which the rental payment covers. If the period of the machine rental ends before 1 February 2013, then the VAT on that rental may be recoverable in full. VAT incurred on machine rental invoices after 1 February may not be recovered, subject to the de minimis rules. If the period of the machine rental straddles the introduction of MGD (for example the rental period is 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2013) then a proportion of the VAT may be recovered. The exact percentage depends on the amount of income liable to VAT earned in your VAT year compared to the total

amount of income earned in your business in the VAT year (unless a special method to calculate this percentage has been agreed).

We rely on our accountant to make our VAT returns online. Can we align our MGD returns with our VAT return periods?

You can make a request to align the periods although we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate you.

In the case of a private members' club can any of the club officials or members become personally liable for the club's MGD?

No

continued on page 6



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I don't want to appear on the MGD register. Can I choose not to?
No.

If a particular machine is being operated in a way which is illegal under the Gambling Act or other legislation, is MGD still due?
Yes.

If a machine was purchased before the law received Royal

Assent on July 17, 2012 can input tax be reclaimed in full if the club was fully taxable at the time of the purchase?
Yes. For other VAT implications you need to consult your club's accountant.

If you require guidance on this new set of regulations please call your games supplier or the Federation Helplines for further assistance.

Make sure your club fully complies

If you have CCTV cameras in your club you must let people know that they are in an area where surveillance is being carried out.


The most effective way of doing this is by using prominently placed signs at the entrance to the CCTV zone and reinforcing this with further signs inside the area. Clear and prominent signs are particularly important where the cameras themselves are very discreet, or in locations where people might not expect to be under surveillance. As a general rule, signs should be more prominent and frequent where it would otherwise be less obvious to people that they are on CCTV.

In the exceptional circumstance that audio recording is being used, this should be stated explicitly and prominently.

Signs do not need to say who is operating the system if this is obvious. If CCTV is installed within your club, for example, it will be obvious that the club is responsible.

All staff should know what to do or who to contact if a member of the public makes an enquiry about the CCTV system.


If you have signs in place informing people that CCTV is in operation ensure they convey the appropriate information?




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Questions & Answers

Q. A Committee Member has submitted a written complaint about another committee member and we are unsure of how it should be handled. Should either committee member be in attendance when the complaint is read out at the next committee meeting, and what happens if the committee decides to summon the committee member in question to a disciplinary meeting?

A. The committee should treat this situation as it would treat any situation which involves a complaint being made about a club member. The fact that it is a complaint made by a committee member about another committee member should not affect the committee's approach apart from the fact that these two individuals should play no role in any discussion or subsequent disciplinary action.

The committee should review the complaint at the next committee meeting and both committee members involved should be asked to leave the meeting at this point. If the committee are of the opinion that the allegations contained within the complaint justify a disciplinary meeting being held then they should inform the committee member in

question that a disciplinary will be scheduled to consider the allegations made against them.

The committee can also instruct this member to withdraw from the facilities of membership until they appear before the disciplinary meeting. It is normal that once the withdrawal takes place that a disciplinary meeting is held within two months and that at least seven days' notice of the meeting must be given to the member, in accordance with the club's rules. If the committee decides to withdraw the facilities of membership from the member until the disciplinary meeting has taken place then this means that they will be unable to enter the club until the disciplinary meeting has been heard.

The committee cannot expel or suspend a member from the club without first inviting them to a committee meeting and detailing the specific allegations being made against them. A suspension or permanent expulsion can only take place once a disciplinary meeting has been held.

If the committee decides to hold a disciplinary meeting then once all the evidence has been heard the committee can either suspend or expel the committee member in question or decide to take no further action.

The committee are not empowered to remove this member from the committee, only the members can remove an elected committee member.

Q. We have an employee who is currently on sick leave. However, an allegation relating to their employment has come to light and the committee wish to know if it is possible to

convene a disciplinary meeting to deal with the allegation. Can we summon an employee to a disciplinary whilst they are on sick leave or must we wait until they return from their sick leave?

A. It does not automatically follow that an employee who has been signed off work by his or her GP cannot be disciplined or dismissed.

In this situation, as the conduct of the employee is so serious as to suspect that the employee is guilty of theft, it is likely that the committee will be judged to have acted reasonably if a disciplinary hearing is requested and, if the allegations are proven, dismissal follows. In general, if the offence would not normally deserve dismissal then it may be best to wait for the employee to return to work.

These are the steps the committee should take:

1. Set out in writing the employee's alleged "misconduct"

2. Send this statement to the employee, inviting them to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.

3. If they refuse, seek a medical opinion on whether or not the employee is fit enough to attend a disciplinary hearing even though they may be unfit to carry out their normal job function. If the committee wishes to speak to the employee's doctor then they should gain the employee's consent prior to contacting the doctor. There are also alternatives that can be considered offering an employee who cannot attend a disciplinary hearing at work such as holding the hearing at a neutral venue or the employee's home. If this is not possible and the employee cannot attend any formal meeting then the committee can invite the employee to make a written response to the allegations

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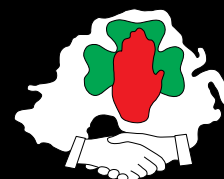
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continued from page 7

or offer the employee to nominate a representative to attend in their place.

4. Hold the disciplinary meeting.
5. After the meeting inform the employee of the decision and of his or her right of appeal and confirm the decision in writing.

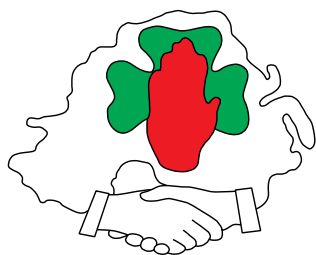
The employee's alleged offence should clearly warrant such action, and the timing and location of meetings must be reasonable.

It could be argued that deliberately arranging a disciplinary meeting at a time when the employee is ill, and therefore arguably unable to attend, would be unreasonable, and that the employer should have waited until the employee has recovered before convening the disciplinary meeting.

If the committee do consider that the meeting cannot be held until the employee has returned to work then you can set out the grounds of the complaint in writing to the employee and advise the employee that the disciplinary hearing will be held upon their return to work.

If you have any questions you would like answered then please send them to:

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Survey says 'Action Your Will' this October **Action**

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Lawyer turned comedian, Tim McGarry, joined Action Cancer to launch its 'Action Your Will' campaign. The initiative presents the opportunity to organise or update your Will for a simple donation to the charity this October. A recent survey carried out by the charity found that 70% don't have a Will, yet 97% agreed this initiative is a good idea.



Tim McGarry joins Action Cancer to launch its 'Action Your Will' campaign at the High Court in Belfast.

Kerry Anderson at Action Cancer explained, "Action Your Will is simple, for the month of October our participating solicitors have waived their fees for basic Wills so you can organise yours for a simple donation that could be life saving.

"Our survey has highlighted 90% of those with a Will organised the document to provide for loved ones, yet 70% of people still don't have a Will. A third of those surveyed cited 'cost' and 'don't want to think about it' as the main reasons for not having a Will; yet having an up-to-date Will is the only way to ensure that your possessions

and finances are divided up according to your wishes.

"We are encouraging people to remember the people and the causes they care about, and take action this October. Simply call one of our solicitors and make an appointment. By doing so, your donation will help us provide a counselling session for a child affected by cancer, an MOT health check for a man, or a breast screening for a woman."

A list of participating solicitors and an advice document for those preparing their will is available at www.actioncancer.org, or by calling Action Cancer on 028 9080 3347.

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Diageo change of supply extended chain of supply sure to offer 'win win' opportunity to clubs

DIAGEO

The recently announced change in the way Diageo products are to be distributed presents an excellent opportunity for clubs to benefit from promotions and pricing.

Speaking to the Executive Committee at the Federation's monthly meeting, the Chairman, John Davidson, spoke in glowing terms of the association which remains between Diageo and the club sector but continued to outline the view that this recent change presents an excellent opportunity for clubs to benefit through the availability of promotions and better pricing opportunities.

At a time of severe economic decline it is important, more than ever, that club management committees look at their club in a pure business light.

The Federation advises that clubs should open accounts with those companies with which the Federation are associated, a move that will undoubtedly present

opportunities throughout the year by benefitting from ongoing promotions by respective companies.

Meetings with the representatives of Dillon Bass, Drinks Inc, Coca-Cola, McCabes/Russell's, United Wine Merchants, Musgrave, Britvic and Makro have all been positive with a delivery service being available with the exception at this stage of Makro which has been taken over by 'Bookers' who may introduce delivery at a later stage.

To clarify matters, Diageo will of course continue to supply keg beer, however emergency supplies are available from Drinks Inc, Musgrave and Russell's. It is important to note that these kegs are approved by Diageo and are not from the grey market, which has caused some concern with our members, having been raised on a number of occasions. Anyone tempted to obtain kegs of this type should be aware that they are not the same.

These recent changes will take time to kick in but will hopefully provide the financial benefits we anticipate. It is certainly a positive move at a time of great difficulty for the industry and the only way to assure its success is to avail of what our associated companies are providing.

As in all aspects of business this will only work if the people on both sides engage in a reciprocal arrangement which everyone can benefit from. In the long term we feel sure it will form stronger links with companies which in turn will benefit members.

These recent meetings have seen all companies underline the importance of the registered club sector which we feel moves the sector to a new level in line with our engagement with other representative bodies within the leisure industry.

With achievements in respect to Clubs Legislation, and a further consultation taking place on further relaxation in the regulations, the road ahead will be somewhat easier to navigate. We are encouraged by the Minister's foresight in affording consideration to extend the hours during which a young person will be permitted on the premises of a sports club. This is intended to encourage increasing numbers of young boys and girls to engage in sport

and leisure, something the Federation has endeavoured to introduce for some years now.

Nevertheless we cannot afford to be complacent, so members can be assured we will remain committed to monitoring all aspects of the day-to-day requirements of running a registered club.



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United Wine Merchants announced as an approved supplier to the NIFC



Martin McCauley, Managing Director of United Wine Merchants.

United Wine Merchants are delighted and honoured to be selected as an approved supplier to the Federation of Clubs.

Commenting on this news, Martin McCauley, Managing Director of United Wine Merchants said, "The strength of United Wine Merchants is that we work with our customers to accommodate their needs and we treat the customer as king.

We are looking forward to working with the members of the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs on a wide-scale basis, bringing our high standard of customer care and excellent delivery service.

We have a strong portfolio of well known brands and we are always developing our offering to keep ahead of trends in the drinks industry."

To speak to a member of our sales team and arrange a meeting with one of our Business Development Managers contact: United Wine Merchants on 028 3831 6555 or sales@unitedwines.co.uk

For a full listing of our brands check out our website www.unitedwines.co.uk

Tennent's NI raises £50,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support

Tennent's NI celebrated a remarkable achievement today of raising £50k for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Employees celebrated the successful conclusion of Tennent's NI's two year commitment to its designated charity with the presentation of a cheque for £50,000.

Duncan Millar, Commercial Director of Tennent's NI, said, "We are delighted to announce that we have successfully achieved our target of £50,000. We recognised the need to support a worthy charity, given our position within the market place and our ability to reach out to our large customer base, to help raise vital funds for a cause that affects one in three people in Northern Ireland.

"Over the past two years our fundraising initiatives

have enabled us to grow and give back as an organisation through staff and customer fundraisers. From stepping out for 10Ks, Half Marathons and Marathons, to Sky Diving, our own staff have been incredibly active in their support!

"Our thanks go to all those who made donations or organized fundraising events with Tennent's NI. Together, we have raised the wonderful total of £50,000 which we know Macmillan Cancer Support will use to make life better for cancer patients and their families."

Claire Brown, Business Manager, Macmillan Cancer Support, welcomed the mega donation from Tennent's NI, saying, "It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside Tennent's NI, their commitment and enthusiasm



Duncan Millar, Commercial Director Tennent's NI, pictured with Miss N.I., Tiffany Brien, and Claire Brown, Business Manager Macmillan Cancer Support, who accepted the £50,000 cheque on behalf of the charity.

throughout the last two years has been incredible. To raise £50,000, especially in this economic climate, is a true credit to the staff, clients and customers of Tennent's NI." Claire continued, "We are truly thankful for this support as it has allowed people and their families living in Northern Ireland, that are affected by cancer, to receive the support that they so desperately need and deserve. We would love to

take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to a wonderful team."

Across Northern Ireland Macmillan Cancer Support offers practical, medical, emotional and financial help to people affected by cancer. The charity provides specially trained medical professionals to the NHS and has recently opened an information and support centre in Belfast."



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Johnny pours a world class pint

A barman from Donaghadee has pulled a winning pint which will see him representing Ireland in Montréal, Canada later this year as he bids to become the Stella Artois World Draught Master.

Johnny Parker from the County Down seaside town has seen off competition from 15 other competitors to be crowned all-Ireland Stella Artois Draught Master. The competition celebrates the ritual of pouring the perfect pint of Stella Artois. It is the final stage in a Masterclass programme led by international Master Beer Sommelier, Marc Stroobandt.

The pouring of the perfect pint of Stella Artois is a serious business. In the high-

pressure Belfast final contestants were expected to demonstrate not only their technique and skills in pouring a pair of perfect pints, but also displaying the all-important charisma, presentation and outgoing personality required to earn the title of Stella Artois Draught Master.

Aisling Duffy, Beer Marketing Manager at Tennent's NI said, "This is only the second year Ireland has participated in this competition and we are delighted that Johnny will be representing the island

at the World Draught Master competition in Montréal, Canada. We wish him every success."



Johnny (centre) is pictured alongside (l-r) Duncan Millar, Commercial Director, Tennent's NI and Marc Stroobandt, Master Beer Sommelier.

Johnny will complete his quest to become Stella Artois World Draught Master in Montréal on 25th October.

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It's a rap as comics line up for Magners Comedy Core Live



Nine big name comedians plus a Comic Rap Battle, all crammed into three amazing nights at Belfast's Mandela Hall. Magners is preparing to go straight to the core of comedy with an incredible bill running nightly from Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 October and, as if that's not enough to gladden the hearts of comedy fans everywhere, tickets will be on sale at an astonishing £22.50, with proceeds donated to Macmillan Cancer Support, and there's a free pint of ice cold Magners Irish Cider too.

Too good to be true? It's a package that could only come from Magners Comedy Core, the new hub of comedy, online and on-trade ... and the big bill at the Mandela Hall has been specially created to celebrate the success of that unique venture.

Big name stand ups Daniel Sloss, Seann Walsh and PJ Gallagher will each headline an evening with support from some of the hottest up and coming comics.

One of the fastest rising stars of UK comedy, Daniel Sloss has appeared on numerous TV shows since he started stand-up aged just 16 and recently made it to No1 in the NME's hot-list of new comedians for 2012.

Brighton's Seann Walsh is a natural motor-mouth. The frighteningly precocious talent won the Leicester Mercury Comedian of the Year within two years of his first comedy performance in 2007.

Renowned Irish stand-up PJ Gallagher, from tv's Naked Camera, drew the acclaim of US talk show host, Conan O' Brien,

with his recent comedy sketch show, Meet Your Neighbors. About the show, Conan said, "That guy cracked me up for an entire afternoon that I forgot to meet my wife for lunch. It's classic comedy, but with a twist."

Looking forward to those Magners Comedy Core Live Rap Battle auditions, Sarah Ratcliffe, Magners Brand Manager at Tennent's NI, said, "We know from our experiences on the road with Magners Comedy Core that there is some great talent out there, all desperate for a showcase – but we wanted to take the open mic concept and shake it up a bit in true Magners style. The result, with thanks to the creative talents of Mark Grist who came up with the idea himself, is the Magners Comedy Core Live Rap Battle."

Visit www.facebook.com/magnersciderni for more information on Magners Comedy Core and to keep up to date with laughs, offers, exclusive live event content and more.



Irish comedian, PJ Gallagher.

The sun sets on Tennent's Vital 2012

The Stone Roses brought Tennent's Vital 2012 to a fantastic close with a brilliant set which delighted festival goers. Lead singer Ian Brown could hardly be heard over the crowd which included the cast of Game of Thrones and the Inbetweeners. When the iconic front man dedicated "This is the One to George Best", his cheer of 'Georgie the Belfast Boy' was echoed back to him across the Boucher Road playing fields.

One of the main highlights of the 2 day musical extravaganza was the headline performance by the Foo Fighters who delivered a blistering set which

lasted over 2 hours. Frontman Dave Grohl had the crowd eating out of his hand and seriously rocking out as he and his Californian band mates tore up the stage.

Over 60,000 music fans came through the gates and had an unforgettable festival experience as they witnessed the very best in live music right in the centre of Belfast. In addition to enjoying this incredible line-up, which had been hailed as, the most sensational bill ever seen at a festival in Northern Ireland, the fans were also able to enjoy extra festival treats courtesy of Tennent's: Vital

Acts of Kindness, where ticket holders won unique prizes and fantastic experiences on site at the festival.

Aisling Duffy, Marketing Manager at Tennent's NI commented, "We are delighted with how well Tennent's Vital 2012 has gone, it was a phenomenal line-up and there were too many highlights to choose from. We had a great response to Tennent's: Vital



Tennent's NI's Tom McCusker & Duncan Millar.

Act of Kindness with lots of happy customers and we are really pleased that we have been able to offer something new and unique to the festival experience."



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Over 600 international and home grown artists perform across Ireland for Arthur's Day

September 27th - Saw a record number of Guinness and music lovers worldwide come together to celebrate Arthur's Day 2012. Fans from 55 countries across the globe, spanning six time zones, raised a toast to the founder of the legendary stout, Arthur Guinness.

The global events kicked off on 27th September across Europe. Guinness lovers at Senate House in London were treated to an exclusive gig from music icon Tom Jones performing a one-off collaboration with R&B superstar Wretch 32. To top off the evening, a silent disco and an impressive light projection of the St James' Gate brewery in Dublin allowed fans to feel like they were almost at the home of Guinness.

Simultaneously, surprise gigs from the likes of Tinie Tempah, Mumford & Sons, Professor Green, Example, Fun Lovin' Criminals and Fatboy Slim took place in venues across Ireland giving fans a once in a lifetime opportunity to get up close to these renowned music stars for a truly remarkable evening.

Tinie Tempah who performed in Belfast said, "What a night! We surprised the crowds and really kicked off the Arthur's Day celebrations with a bang. Thanks for letting us be part of this Ireland!"



Tinie Tempah performing in Belfast as part of the annual Arthur's Day celebrations.

Nearly €8 million has been donated to the Arthur Guinness Fund to date thanks to Arthur's Day and other Guinness projects. Contributions were made on behalf of people who "checked-in" to Arthur's Day events via Facebook, so that this year, the celebrations continued the philanthropic legacy of Arthur Guinness and were true to the long standing tradition of the brand, to support those who are in the business of doing good.

With the 2012 festivities celebrated in style across the globe and a record number of people raising a toast to Arthur



Fans in Dublin raise a glass to Arthur.

Guinness, plans are already beginning to ensure Arthur's Day 2013 provides yet another

night to remember for all those involved.





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WKD Presents: Vampires vs Zombies

This October, WKD will present the ultimate battle for Halloween supremacy by pitting Vampires versus Zombies in an all-encompassing trade and consumer campaign. Clubs and pubs will be designated as either Zombie Zones or Vampire Venues. WKD will provide everything required to help licensees host hauntingly horrible fright nights this Halloween.

Zombie Zones and Vampire Venues will receive decoration kits with all the essential components required to zombify an outlet or vamp up premises. WKD will be providing items such as zombie cut-outs, vampire hanging mobiles, banners, posters, and Halloween drip-mats. Suggestions for zombie

or vampire-themed WKD cocktail recipes will also be supplied. Cocktail pitchers of Zombie Brew (WKD Iron Brew, herbal liqueur and lemonade, topped up with plenty of ice) and Batwing (WKD Purple, blackcurrant liqueur, lemonade and ice) will help make Halloween events that little bit extra special.

Selected outlets will also have the opportunity to bring the cool chill of a haunting Halloween to proceedings by using innovative WKD dry-ice back-bar display units.

As with all key WKD campaigns, stockists can also obtain free paper POS simply by calling the WKD Hotline on 0800 917 3450.

To drive traffic into participating outlets, WKD will ensure that its Facebook followers know where to find their nearest zombie or vampire-loving on-trade venue.

In addition, WKD will be asking consumers to declare their allegiance and vote online in preference for either zombies or vampires as their favourite Halloween heroes. Those who cast their votes via Facebook in support of the winning side will be in with a chance to secure the ultimate Hollywood-style Halloween make-over ready for the big night. Selected lucky voters will receive a home visit from a make-up artist who will give them and three friends the scariest looks around.

"WKD always supports the trade around Halloween and this year we've really fleshed out our activity to provide a frighteningly good package for on-trade stockists," said Debs Carter, Marketing Director for WKD.

"Halloween is a big event in the social calendar and licensees should make the most of the opportunity and back being either a Zombie Zone or a Vampire Venue. Our decoration kits will give outlets a suitably scary Halloween look and our dry-ice displays will add real atmosphere. Supported by our online consumer drive, our 2012 campaign will generate footfall, create a great atmosphere and get consumers in Northern Ireland in the mood for a fantastic Halloween," concluded Carter.



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Putting best foot forward for 'Olympic' Marathon effort



Entries are already coming in for the 32nd Deep RiverRock Belfast City Marathon, which gets under starters' orders next May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May, 2013.

Launching the 2013 event in September, the Lord Mayor of Belfast Gavin Robinson spoke of his high regard for everyone who has taken part in the marathon over the years.

"More than 30 years ago, Belfast City Council, took the decision to stage the first Belfast City Marathon and, over the intervening years, the event has gone from strength to strength.

Belfast, quite rightly, is regarded as one of the world's friendliest marathons, and runners from near and far are always encouraged by the warmth of the support they find in all four corners of our city. Once again, I would urge the people of Belfast to turn out and support the runners on May Day – whether it be by offering a glass of water or a slice of fruit, or merely an encouraging word," said Alderman Robinson.

Entries for the 2013 Belfast City Marathon have been open since May, with almost 400 participants already registered. For further information log on to www.belfastcitymarathon.com



Olympic silver medal rowers Peter and Richard Chambers are on board as ambassadors for Cancer Focus Northern Ireland (the new name for the Ulster Cancer Foundation), the official charity for the Deep RiverRock Belfast City Marathon 2013. Also pictured are Cancer Focus ambassadors, radio presenter, John Daly (left), and John McAlindon and Carol Annesley, who have had cancer and are taking part in the relay.

Chain Reaction Cycles and Action Cancer announce exciting new adventure



Leading global retailer, Chain Reaction Cycles and their NI charity partner Action Cancer have announced an exciting adventure race called 'RE:ACTION'.

The event takes place on 6th October and will utilise the fabulous facilities at Clearsky Adventure Centre at Castle Ward (Northern Ireland), where participants can take on a run/cycle/run style challenge in aid of the cancer charity. The three stage race will consist of a 4km run, 13km bike ride and final 4km run to the finish line.

Andrew Porter, Clearsky Adventure Race welcomes the event, "We're really looking

forward to staging Re:Action in October. The course will utilise some of the best features of the marvellous Castle Ward Estate on the shores of Strangford Lough. With many other activities available on the site throughout the day there'll be plenty for all the family and supporters to do."

Kerry Anderson, Corporate Fundraising Officer at Action Cancer said, "We're very grateful to Chain Reaction Cycles for organising the event as part of our partnership in relation to men's health and in support of our Action Man Campaign. Action Cancer provides MOT health checks which provide men with a current picture of

their health and advise them on health changes they wish to make. The health checks also provide an opportunity to raise awareness of male specific cancers, encouraging men to check themselves and go to the GP with symptoms. Anyone wishing to avail of a health check should call Action Cancer on 028 9080 3344."

Entries for this exciting new event are £15 per person with a suggested sponsorship target of £75.

For further information please contact simon.cordner@chainreactioncycles.com or telephone Action Cancer on 028 9080 3344.



Stephen Watson and CRC Mechanic and Adventure Racer Christian Nachtigall get ready for Re:Action 2012.

National Hunt Heroes on your doorstep

Down Royal Festival of Racing 2nd & 3rd November 2012

The very best of the National Hunt world will descend on Northern Ireland for the race meeting that signals the start of the season for the jumping fraternity. Down Royal is proud to introduce the 2012 Northern Ireland Festival of Racing, bringing world class talent right to your doorstep

Last year's meeting saw Quito De La Roque wear down subsequent Cheltenham Queen Mother Champion Chase winner, Sizing Europe, to land the Grade One JNWine.com Champion Chase.

Kauto Star's half-brother, Kauto Stone, was an impressive victor of the Grade Two Ladbrokes.

com Chase, giving English champion trainer Paul Nicholls his fourth consecutive winner of the race.

An increase in prize money for 2012 and another race upgraded to Grade 3 now leaves this meeting with 5 out of 14 races with "Black Type" status and firmly establishing the Festival as a premier fixture in National Hunt racing.

On Friday 2nd November, there will be a Punters' Pack offer which includes; Entrance to the racecourse, Racecard, £5 win bet, bottle of WKD, hot beef roll and access to the Private Paddock Marquee. There will only be 500 Punters' packs

available over the festival, at a cost of £22 and they must be booked in advance.

Admission on Saturday 3rd November is £15. Discounts on admission are available for groups booking coach trips to the racecourse.

The festival will see the hospitality facilities operating at maximum capacity with options to suit all budgets and demands, starting from £60 in the newly extended Rainbow Telecom Suite.



Quito de la Roque defeating, 2011 Queen Mother Champion Chase winner, Sizing Europe in the 2011 JNWine.com Champion Chase at the Down Royal Festival of Racing

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A Punters' Pack includes; • Entrance to the racecourse • Access to a private marquee • Beef roll
£5 bet supported by Sean Graham Bookmakers & Pat O'Hare Bookmakers • Racecard • WKD

GENERAL ADMISSION: Friday 2nd, £12 • Saturday 3rd, £15. Children under 16 go free,
OAP & student rates are available on both days. First race on both days 1:00pm, last race 4:00pm (approx.)
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UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award



Mark McHugh, Donegal, winner of the August Quinn-direct/UGAAWA Merit Award.

Pic: Peadar McMahon

In August it was Donegal that lit the football fireworks. Rarely, have we seen such determination and energy displayed in close together national quarter-finals and semi-finals by a team but the Tir Connail men, starters and replacements alike, drew oceans of praise from friend and foe alike.

Picking a Merit Award winner for the month was no easy task as most of the Donegal Players would have been worthy recipients. However, it was Mark McHugh who got the nod for his all-over-Croke Park display as he handled defence and attack with equal ease, opening scoring gaps for his colleagues and backing up his defenders. It was reminiscent of a remark made by an English journalist after watching Kevin Moran with Dublin in an All-Ireland final, shortly after he had joined Manchester Utd.

"Moran can sort out United's defensive, midfield and forward problems all on his own," quipped the journalist.

"It is a real honour to get this award from pundits of the game and I am absolutely delighted," beamed accountancy undergraduate Mark (22) who has two USFC medals, a Donegal U21 and two Division 2 FL Donegal awards.

Mark was pushed for the August Award by Cathriona McConnell and Neil Gallagher but it was Mark McHugh who collected the award of an engraved Belleek Living vase, etched silver cuff links from Omeath jeweller Garrett Mallon, training gear from O'Neill's Int. Sports and a voucher from the Ulster GAA Writers' Association. He also received two tickets and overnight accommodation for the UGAAWA's Silver Jubilee banquet on November 16.

All-Ireland Camogie Championship Finals



Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Liam Ó Néill, right, and Ryle Nugent, RTE, Group Head of Sport, left, with premier junior captains Fionnuala Carr, Down, left, and Jane Dolan, Meath, right, at the 2012 All-Ireland Camogie Championship Finals, in association with RTE Sport, Captains Day, Croke Park, Dublin.

Picture credit: Pat Murphy/SPORTSFILE



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