

Club Review

VOLUME 26 - Issue 3, 2013

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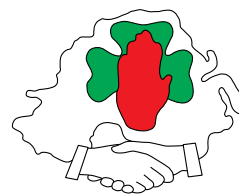
ASK FOR IT
BY NAME.

MY
NAME.

-Jameson

Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the Andersonstown Social Club, Belfast, on Tuesday 9th April 2013



John Davidson opened the meeting by welcoming those present. The Secretary presented the minutes of the previous executive meeting followed by the minutes of the AGM, both of which were passed as a true record, proposed by Tommy McMinn and seconded by Jim Hanna. The minutes of the AGM will of course also be presented at the 2014 AGM.

Copies of the financial report were distributed, with the Treasurer, Davy Larmour, going through them in detail, providing explanations where necessary.

Expenses were discussed with some concern being expressed. It was requested that the Treasurer provide clarification for the next Executive meeting. The report was passed as a true record by acclamation.

The Chairman detailed some of the meetings attended in the past month.

The said requests included the provision of a Contract of Employment.

A club in the North West requested and was provided with advice on Gaming machine payment regulations.

We are pleased to learn that an issue related to a County Antrim member club have been satisfactorily resolved.

Another discussion took place on the responsibilities of another club, this time located

in Belfast. They had been given advice which we considered to be wrong. The Chairman has been in touch with them and made them aware of our opinion. Our advice is based on advice provided by our legal representatives, Shean Dickson & Merrick.

The dinner dance was discussed as we were concerned that numbers attending could be affected by the economic climate.

As the Ulster Agricultural Society is moving to a new site at the Maze this could well be the final year at the King's Hall site. Going forward we will commence giving consideration to other options, such as a Federation day at the races.

A discussion took place on the complex area of trustees, their appointment and their responsibilities. This is a complex area and one which is increasingly bringing forward queries. It should be remembered that trustees are appointed at the behest of the management committee and should not suppose to have more power than they really have.

As there was no further business the Chairman closed the meeting by thanking Andersonstown Social Club for hosting the meeting and for the generous hospitality provided.

Bob McGlone
Secretary



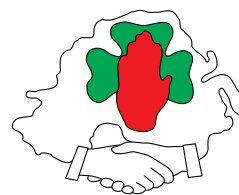
NI Federation of Clubs executive committee members with representatives of Andersonstown Social Club following the April meeting.

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Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the Dockers Club, Belfast,
on Tuesday 14th May 2013



As the Chairman John Davidson had a prior appointment, the Assistant Chairman, Brian McCartney, deputised to open the meeting by inviting the Secretary to read the minutes of the April Meeting. They were subsequently passed as a true record by Raymond Connor and Jim Wilson.

An amendment was submitted by Gerry Gallagher, in respect of comments made in respect of expenditure commented on in the April minutes. A discussion ensued with contributions made by the entire committee. The importance of accountability was highlighted, which is

essential, in order that the Treasurer can assure appropriate documentation/receipts are received for all expenditure in the event of an investigation of any kind.

Correspondence was covered by the Secretary, Bob McGlone, and included an invitation to a labour relations seminar in August 2013. While we have enjoyed the benefit of a seminar specifically arranged for our purposes, North West delegate Gerry Gallagher suggested he would nevertheless like to attend.

The Treasurer, Davy Larmour, presented a financial report

detailing income and expenditure in the past month. The report was subsequently passed as a true record by Gerry Gallagher and Brian McCartney.

The dinner and dance was covered in some detail with the debate expanding to cover proposals for 2014. However, it was revealed that 2013 was the last year in which the King's Hall venue was available. It has been decided to explore other avenues/types of event suitable to replace the historic club annual event. The Federation have meetings planned to explore other options and members will of course be

updated on how matters proceed.

The next Federation executive committee meeting will be held on 6th June 2013 which will be the final meeting prior to the summer recess.

As this concluded matters, the acting Chairman, Brian McCartney, closed the meeting by thanking members for their attendance and to the management committee of the Dockers Club for hosting the meeting and for the excellent hospitality provided.

Bob McGlone, Secretary

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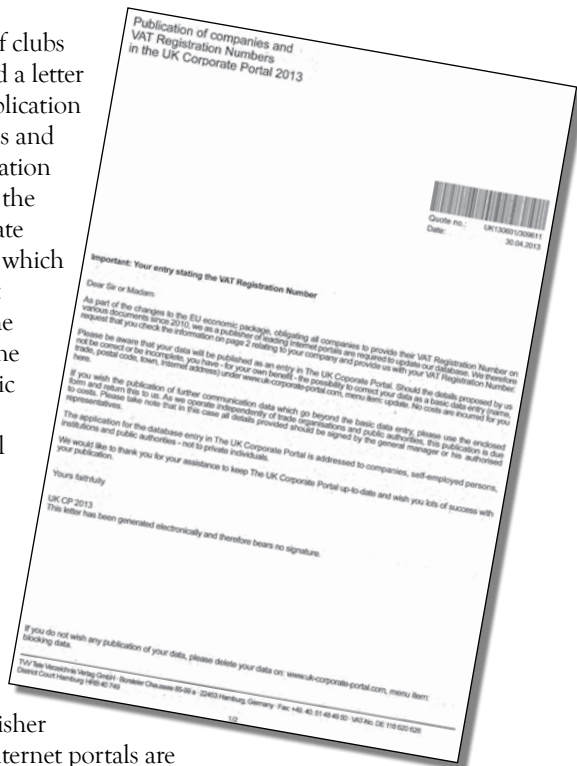
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VAT registration scam warning

A number of clubs have received a letter entitled 'Publication of companies and VAT Registration Numbers in the UK Corporate Portal 2013' which suggests that 'as part of the changes to the EU economic package, obligating all companies to provide their VAT Registration Number on various documents since 2010, we as a publisher of leading internet portals are required to update our database'.

The company in question is a German company called TVV Tele Verzeichnis Verlag GmbH and its website address is: www.uk-corporate-portal.com/ which is mentioned in the letter. The letter which clubs have received looks very official and includes the club name and address and a form to complete and return to the company. However, if the form is completed and returned then the club agrees, via the small print, to pay £797 annually which the company states is an advertisement charge. We strongly advise that this form is not completed, is not returned, and if received, is simply binned. If clubs are in any doubt over correspondence which has been received and the legitimacy of the correspondence then please contact the NIFC Helplines before taking any action.



If any club has already completed and returned this form then please do not pay any invoices which may arrive and contact the NIFC for further advice. Please note, whilst threats of legal action may be made by this company in the event of non-payment, we would continue to advise that no payment is made and the matter should be referred to your local Trading Standards Office.

A Trading Standards representative said, "We're concerned that businesses may consider the letter to be official but if they sign and return the form to confirm their details are correct they could end up tied in to the high costs of an entry in the publication. Businesses should be aware there is no obligation to provide information to this company and entries do not have to appear on their website or portal."

Non domestic rating revaluation announced for 2015

On 25th March 2013 the Minister, Sammy Wilson, announced that Land & Property Services (LPS) will soon be contacting all non-domestic rate payers asking for rental information in relation to their properties enabling the Agency to draw up a new Valuation List to take effect in April 2015.

The aim of a revaluation is to redress any imbalance that exists in the rating system in terms of property rental values. Currently rates bills are based on 2001 values and the new list will be based on 2013 rental figures.

Despite the dramatic decline in property values over the last few years the revaluation will not necessarily result in lower rates bills. Some will go down, some will go up, but many will stay the same, ie the total amount of revenue raised by rate collection remains relatively fixed.



Over the next few weeks all rate payers will be asked to complete a Form of Return (FOR) including a number of questions relating to the occupancy and use of the property.

Rate payers are required to complete this questionnaire as fully as possible or seek an agent to do so on their behalf.

It is important to supply the information so that LPS can ensure more accurate valuations resulting in a fairer redistribution of rates.

If you have any queries in relation to the Form of Return, please do not hesitate to contact McConnell Chartered Surveyors (Rory Clark). www.mcconnellproperty.com rory.clark@mcconnellproperty.com

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N.I.F.C. Annual Dinner & Dance

A time to celebrate with friends

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The 2013 Dinner and Dance was, as expected, successful in bringing together club representatives and guests from throughout the province.

In his welcoming address the Federation Chairman, John Davidson, said he was reminded of his address in recent years, which focused on the economic climate which continues to have a devastating effect on the register club sector. He continued to highlight events of 2012, which saw the Federation welcoming the introduction of amendments to the clubs legislation, highlighting the present position which sees Minister McCausland's consultation document, which will, if and when introduced, assist clubs province-wide. In addition, our position on the panel of the UK Wide Clubs body (CORCA) has provided the basis for the Linneweber 2 Vat reclaim following on from the benefit gained via Linneweber 1 - which was enjoyed by a substantial number of member clubs.

Continuing, he expressed particular thanks to each and every one of our trade suppliers

for their support, underlining the importance of our members utilising the services provided by those suppliers at all times possible.

The Chairman also acknowledged the support he receives from the Federation Secretary, Bob McGlone, Treasurer, Davy Larmour, P.R.O., Harry Beckinsale, and the members of the entire Federation executive committee. In conclusion, he acknowledged the important role played by our sponsors in supporting events such as the Dinner and Dance, stating that without this support things would be very different. In conclusion, thanks was extended to Diageo for providing the welcoming reception and to all those other companies which provided support and prizes for the raffle.

Due to the association between the Club and Charity sectors it was deemed appropriate to invite N.I. Cancer Fund for Children Chief Executive, Gillian Creevey, to speak on behalf of the invited guests. This was particularly appropriate in a year which sees this major charity develop



NI Federation of Clubs Chairman, John Davidson, with Diageo Key Accountant Executive, Colin Bell.

a new state-of-the-art facility at Shimna Valley in Newcastle, Co. Down. Gillian made reference to the valuable support afforded by clubs, which allows the continuance of work and support to children and families throughout Northern Ireland.

Music was provided by 'Contrast', featuring Janine Whithers, with the guest artiste being Mike Dennett, who travelled from Blackpool for the event.

Yet again our annual event was a shining example of how club people get along together in complete harmony setting a fine example others could learn from - even those on the hill!

As the RUAS has moved to the Maze site this was quite possibly our final year at the iconic King's Hall which will lead us to look at alternative events and/or locations. We have already engaged in initial discussions and will hopefully have some options drawn up in the near future.



Dermot Rollins (centre), with Ricky Dean (right), Windsor Snooker Club, and his guest.

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Annual Dinner & Dance



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1. Representatives from Falls Bowling Club.
2. (L-R) Sam Dinsmore, Computer Accounting Bureau with Federation executive committee members, Raymond Connor and Jim Hanna.
3. Lawrence Shearer (O'Hara Shearer Accountants) with his wife Paula (centre) and NI Cancer Fund for Children Chief Executive, Gillian Creevey.
4. Representatives from R.A.O.B., Carrickfergus, Larne and HQ Belfast.
5. Tom McMinn (left) and Brian McCartney with their wives and guest.
6. Mr & Mrs Gallagher, West Belfast Sports & Social Club.
7. (L-R) Gerry Gallagher with his wife Carmine and son Stephen.



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8. Billy McClean and his partner, Jackie Rogers.
9. (L-R) Ernie Cressey, Jim Wilson, Hamilton McClements and Frank McKee.
10. Representatives from H&W Welders FSC.
11. Representatives from the East Belfast Constitutional Club.
12. Ken Nelson and Margaret McCullough.
13. (L-R) Philip & Pat Mallon, Joe & Mary Patterson, and Sean & Maureen Magee.
14. Contrast provided an excellent show.

Annual Dinner & Dance



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15. Harry Beckinsale (left) with Gillian Creevey and Jim Wilson.

16. Representatives from the Cresta Club enjoyed the evening.

17. Representatives from Crumlin Star, Belfast.

18. Regular attendees, West Belfast HPS, had a great night.

19. Windsor Snooker Club and Ballylumford Social Club representatives.

20. The ladies from Ligoniel Pigeon Club.

21. Two of the Taughmonagh Social Club ladies really enjoyed the craic.



21

Health and Safety in your club

A wide range of health and safety issues face the manager of a club. Not only does the manager have to look after the staff, but they have the public to look after too, especially after they have had a few drinks!

Stay within the Law

There are key actions that all clubs should take to comply with legal requirements. These requirements have been around for many years but to recap, the manager of a club should:

- Develop a health and safety policy that provides a health and safety statement, individuals' responsibilities for health and safety in the club and the arrangements that are in place to keep both staff and customers safe. This document should be written down if there are five or more employees.
- Consult with the staff at the club so their health and safety concerns can be understood and acted upon.
- Ensure you get competent health and safety advice.
- Assess the risks in the club and communicate the findings of your assessment to the staff at the club and take steps to control the risks.
- Ensure that staff are trained so they know how to go about their duties safely.
- Develop emergency procedures to be followed in the event of fire.
- Coordinate effectively with landlords and contractors to ensure that the building is maintained in a safe condition and that maintenance work is undertaken safely.

Assess the Risks

One of the key issues is to conduct a risk assessment. This will involve the risk

assessor, maybe the manager, walking around the club to identify anything that may pose a risk. The risk assessor should talk to staff to get their viewpoint and talk to cleaning contractors and any other regular service providers who visit the club to get their input too. The accident book should also be checked to understand what has been causing accidents. Once the hazards are noted, the controls in place need to be considered and additional controls then noted as necessary. An action plan for implementing the controls should be developed and staff should be given specific responsibilities for helping to ensure that controls for specific risks are in place. The risk assessments should be communicated to the employees and then reviewed on a yearly basis.

Common Problems

A range of issues face club owners and managers and some key hazards are outlined here so they can be included within the risk assessment process.

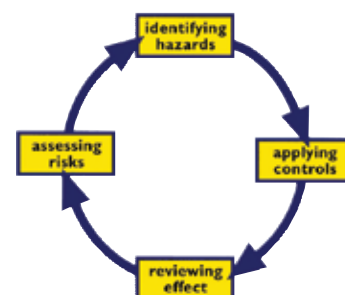
Handling hazardous chemicals is an everyday part of managing a club. Substances such as rinse aids, bleaches, sanitisers, etc. are used on a daily basis. Many cleaning substances are corrosive and can cause dermatitis as well as asthma and other breathing problems if the workplace is poorly ventilated. Evaluate the risks associated with the chemicals you are using. If possible, substitute them for less hazardous products, instruct your staff on how to use the products, give them appropriate protective equipment and make sure they

are stored away from food and members of the public.

Back pain and other manual handling injuries are the most common forms of work related ill health in the UK. Club owners need to ensure that manual handling activities have been assessed and reduced as far as possible. Part of the process of reducing hazardous lifting will involve keeping good housekeeping standards, providing adequate space for movement and storage of barrels and bottle crates and training staff on how to handle such items. Don't forget to keep yards and car parks clear for drinks deliveries to have unobstructed access to your cellar.

Glass breakages are a common occurrence and staff need to be instructed not to pick up glass with their bare hands. A dustpan and brush are needed and smaller fragments can be picked up with a number of wet paper towels. Cleaning mops and sponges should not be used to clean up after breakages because they can harbour tiny particles of glass. Once the breakage has been cleared up, ensure that the fragments of glass are disposed of safely so as to prevent them cutting the person who picks up the waste sack. Ensuring the glass is wrapped in cardboard and put into a wheelie bin will help prevent cuts from handling waste sacks.

Furniture in your club will take a lot of wear and tear. Repeated movement of items such as seating means that their manufacture should be sturdy and a regular check on the condition of furniture is recommended. Not only will



the furniture need to withstand use by the heavier customer, but when the party gets started, the furniture may be danced upon! It is also worth checking that the seating meets the flammability requirements of BS 7176. Essentially, the standard requires furniture to be resistant to ignition sources such as matches and cigarettes, even though smoking is not permitted in clubs.

There is always maintenance and cleaning work to be done and stepladders can be invaluable in helping your staff get to inaccessible areas. A regular check on your stepladder should ensure that the feet are in place, that treads are clean and undamaged and that locking devices work effectively. Staff should be reminded that stepladders should only be used when locked in the open position and on a level, dry and clear surface. In some situations, a ladder will not be the right equipment to use and an assessment of the job should be undertaken. Poor practices such as using crates or climbing on shelves or using bar stools for access should not be condoned.

With members of the public in the building and entertainers using electrical equipment for gigs, electrical safety is an important issue for club managers. Electrical equipment should be checked on a regular basis to ensure that leads, sockets, plugs and

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

connections are not damaged. Trailing leads should be removed as far as possible as cables can get damaged as well as cause a trip hazard. If you have entertainers at your club, ensure that the electrical circuits have been checked by a competent person in the last five years and ensure that there are residual current devices which can be used with the sound and lighting equipment.

Keep Checking

A key activity for club managers is checking that the club and its fixtures are maintained in good working order. A regular check of the club for any untoward issues is a good idea, particularly if the check can be recorded. As well as damage to electrical equipment, the check should ensure that gas equipment and lift maintenance records are in date, that lighting and

ventilation levels are adequate, that housekeeping standards are appropriate and that any spillages have been cleaned up quickly by staff. Slips and trips were discussed in Club Review, Issue 1 - 2013 but slip and trip hazards should be watched for so the condition of floors and stairs should be monitored. The check should also ensure that fire exits are unblocked and that fire extinguishers are maintained and located in their designated areas.

Whilst thinking about maintenance, it is a good idea to check that your regular contractors on site hold adequate public liability insurance cover. When you ask this question, be sure to ask about their competence, experience and safe systems of work for the job they are about to undertake for you. If they are to undertake any work involving heat, ensure

they have a procedure for preventing fires. Be sure to tell contractors about any specific issues relating to your club that may be relevant, such as the location of asbestos containing materials. Some simple checks and good communication can prevent many of the issues that arise through the use of third party service providers.

Useful tips for improving health and safety management in your club include:

- Do not store hazardous cleaning substances in food and drink containers
- Do not mix cleaning products containing bleach with acidic toilet cleaners or ammonia, the reaction will give off a harmful gas
- Provide a safety barrier around internal and external cellar hatchways when they are in use
- Do not stack full beer barrels of greater capacity

than 11 gallons and do not stack any full barrels more than two high.

- Only use stepladders for a short duration and do not work off the top two steps unless the stepladder has a handhold. Make sure the users belt buckle stays within the stiles of the steps, this will prevent over reaching.
- If maintenance work needs a ladder to help access, it should be at 75° and in a position which prevents movement at the top and bottom.

Through common sense assessment of risks, adequate instruction for staff, and monitoring to ensure control measures are in place and that your club is in a well maintained condition, many accidents and their associated problems can be avoided in your club.

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Holding an appeal hearing

The purpose of an appeal is to enable an independent review of the “reasonableness” of the outcome of a disciplinary hearing. It is important that the appeal does not become another disciplinary hearing but focuses on reviewing the process followed and the appropriateness of the decision.

We have said before that only half the Committee should ever sit in a disciplinary hearing. This means that the other half are available to hear the appeal.

If there is an appeal at your club you should consider the following points:

- Has a thorough and sufficient investigation been conducted?
- Was the officials’ decision to take disciplinary action

reasonable based on the evidence relating to the case?

- Was the disciplinary action decided upon reasonable, given the circumstances of the case?
- Has the matter been handled fairly and appropriately and is it consistent with the disciplinary procedure?
- Is there any new evidence, which, if known at the time, would have altered the decision?

The accompanying person can address the meeting, but not answer questions on behalf of the appellant.

During the hearing:

- One member of the Committee should chair the appeal hearing and introduce those present.

- He or she should explain the purpose of the appeal and ensure that all parties have appropriate paperwork.
- The parties present at the hearing should introduce themselves and confirm their respective roles at the hearing.
- The conclusions at the disciplinary hearing should be fully explained and the evidence on which those conclusions were based.
- The appellant and his representative will be asked to set out the ways in which the appellant believes the conclusions of the disciplinary hearing were flawed.
- The appellant or his representative will be allowed full opportunity to question

the original hearing manager and raise any points.

- The appeal manager will take into account any mitigating factors put forward by the appellant.
- You may call a short break during the proceedings, if necessary.

The decision

- Having considered all the points it is important to consider the seriousness of the misconduct in the context of the appellant’s previous record.

There are three verdicts that can be reached:

- Not to uphold the appeal
- To uphold the appeal
- To issue a lesser sanction

Membership recruitment

Apart from financial control, the key to a club’s future success lies in the ability to recruit new members. In most clubs, whatever facilities are available, only one third of the total membership uses the club regularly and its hard core is less than this. The aim therefore, is to increase the total membership in order to increase the proportion which makes up one third.

It does seem that people are often encouraged to become involved in membership recruitment if there is some form of reward involved. One of the most successful recruitment schemes is known as the ‘bounty system,’ whereby a member who introduces a new member receives some form of payment, usually by way of a bar voucher. For example, if a club’s

membership subscription is £10, the payment of a £10 bar voucher to the introductory member has in many cases created a great deal of interest. I suspect that human nature dictates that most of us wish to belong to something which has an element of exclusivity.

Experience has also shown that many clubs will recruit new members and will lose them at the following year’s renewal time. One of the reasons for this is that new members are not always made as welcome as they should be. Clubs should hold new members’ evenings each year, inviting all members who have joined during the previous period. These occasions are a great way to help ‘break the ice’ and forge friendships with existing members.

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Why compromising on gas can ruin your beer



BEER TIPS

Beer is designed and brewed to be served at a specific temperature, pressure and mix of gas - the wrong gas can affect the presentation, the head, the taste, the mouth feel and the brightness and clarity of the beer.

People drink with their eyes - before it even touches your lips you have expectation of pleasure and the first few sips are the most intense. That's when the customer is already thinking - this is nice I'll order another!

If a lager is bright, clear, properly dispensed, with the right head, in the right glass and there is a burr of condensation forming then it already tastes good before you drink it!

Any more than the tiniest amount of oxygen in the keg or cask will sour and kill the beer stone dead

Soft drinks also depend on pure carbonation - any contamination of the gas cylinder can taint and ruin the serving.

Clubs put so much effort into getting the atmosphere and the facilities right, keeping the place clean, selecting top quality beers to sell, and ensuring service is slick and efficient - why would they want to ruin the beer by having poor gas?

Beer is not just a liquid. Highly carbonated lagers for example can be one volume of liquid to 2.2 volumes of CO₂. Gas is vitally important for beer quality. The same goes for carbonated soft drinks. In fact, every beer and effervescent soft drink is designed to be served with the right pressure, mix and purity of gas. Get it wrong, you disappoint your members and they may decide to drink elsewhere. Get it right and you could have the best drinks in town.

From your club's point of view one cylinder may look pretty much like another. Buying gas from a non-approved or quality-accredited supplier may appear to save a few pence. But it's quite the reverse.


People are beginning to recognise that you cannot cut corners with gas in the beer dispense process. And according to BOC Sureserve, the NI

Federation of Clubs approved dispense gas supplier, you don't have to. Here's how you can maximise your sales ensuring you have high quality gas from a source you can trust.

Using poor quality gas or cylinders can lead to beers having inferior taste and presentation. Savings may also be quickly lost as fobbing due to poor gas mixtures can lead to beer being thrown away. Gas needs to be seen like any other food ingredient, beer leaves the brewery in good condition, but to be served right it needs to be properly handled in the club. Gas and cylinder quality, consistent gas mixtures and the correct gas pressure are vital for beers to have good appearance and taste. Leading brewers and trade associations agree that gas quality is the new arena where customer satisfaction and goodwill can be won or lost. It surely isn't worth compromising on gas quality when so much more is at stake.

Use high quality gases from a source you can trust such as an approved and fully quality accredited dispense gas supplier. BOC Sureserve is the only dispense gas supplier approved by the NIFC and is one of the first gas companies to receive the Lloyd's register ISO 9001:2000 status for quality assurance processes.


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Watch out for fraud in your club

Rumours are always flying around clubs about someone being on the take. Just occasionally they're true and for that reason it is imperative for every club to have systems in place that both protect the innocent and deter or find very quickly the guilty.

The following is a brief summary of some of the major aspects of what is known as "internal control"; this will safeguard every club and enhance the reputation of management and staff among all club members.

Controlling your cash

1. Cash in the hands of a Steward
Every month, at irregular times and without giving any warning to the Steward, his/her cash should be counted by at least two members of the Committee. A basic essential is that all the cash should be taken into one room and counted in the presence of the Steward.

Make sure the Steward has been to the toilet if necessary before counting starts as one moment's absence invalidates the count. (If short, the Committee members could be accused of taking the cash.)

The details of the count should be scheduled and signed by the Steward and Committee members present. They should be reported to the main Committee and minuted as such together with the Committee's decision as to any action required.

2. Cash in machines with registers
All machines under the control of the club should be emptied weekly. (Some machines are emptied by the suppliers and may be done at different intervals.) The cash should be

reconciled with what should be in the machines according to the registers. The details should be recorded in a permanent record book showing the theoretical as well as the actual cash and this should be presented to the whole Committee to consider.

• *Revenue & Customs also have an interest in these records where they concern B4 and other classes of machines subject to tax. If there is no reconciliation to meter readings they can raise an enforceable assessment and make the club pay.*

3. Cash for tickets sold
Whether it be raffles, bingo, mini-tote, concert tickets or any other such items, it should always be possible to confirm what cash should be paid over to the Committee each week by reference to the starting numbers and finishing numbers of the tickets for each event. Again, the details should be recorded in a permanent book for the Committee.

4. Members' subscriptions
After every session the amount of cash should be reconciled with the value of receipts issued for each session. Receipt books can be obtained from Branch offices. The reconciliation prepared by the Secretary/Treasurer should be double checked by a member of the finance committee and discrepancies reported to the main Committee.

5. Other cash receipts
It is always best to have a rota of Committee members to empty smaller machines, such as snooker meters. These are not high risk areas and it is inevitable that there will be minor errors from time to time. Such errors can be disregarded as a Committee member tearing

around the club selling raffle tickets can be forgiven tearing off two strips instead of one or dropping the odd pound coin on the floor. Management should not waste time here but should be looking for patterns and considering major deficits.

Controlling your payments

1. Wages
The Committee alone is responsible for staffing levels in the club. It should ensure time sheets provided are within those agreed guidelines, unless alterations are previously sanctioned and should also ensure that if Mickey and Minnie Mouse are on the payroll they are who they say they are. The Committee should also check to make sure the payroll is calculated in accordance with the time sheets.

2. Suppliers
The Secretary or Treasurer will most probably prepare payments for suppliers of both goods and services. They should be checked by that person for both delivery and price. All payments must be confirmed by the Committee (either finance or general) who should have before them the originals of all invoices and delivery notes where appropriate. Cash payments should be kept to an absolute minimum and should always be backed up by a legitimate bill or receipt signed by the recipient.

Controlling your stock

Many clubs experiencing hard

times and looking to cut costs do so by cutting out professional stock gangers. This is a false economy. A regular professional stock check is of paramount importance. It highlights any deficiencies in the cellar and also protects the security and reputation of a good steward.

Control your finances

The full Committee should be presented at every meeting with a full report of every transaction that has taken place since the previous meeting. This should show all payments and receipts to and from whatever source. These should be tied into movements on however many bank accounts the club has and there should be a reconciliation between the book balance of every bank account and the actual balance on the bank statement.

For regularly used accounts it is usual for there to be a difference, but the difference should always have a valid reason. For instance, a bank deposit made through a carrier may take a few days to appear on a bank statement or a cheque sent may take some time to be presented.



Questions & Answers

Q. Could you let us know if there has been any further progress on the Linneweber 1 case? We successfully received the money which we originally claimed but have set it aside until the appeal procedure has been completed.

A. I can confirm there has been no change regarding the position of the appeal money received by the Club relating to the Linneweber case. We are still awaiting the final appeal to be heard and until such time it is advised that a provision is placed on the Club's accounts relating to this money, although individual Clubs can decide how to use the money in the interim. Some Clubs will have already utilised the money whilst others have refrained from using it just in case the appeal by HMRC is successful. In fairness, most commentators do not expect HMRC to be successful. If there is a specific object that the Club wishes to achieve by using the money which is currently being set aside then you may wish to proceed with the project without waiting for the final appeal to be heard. The appeal process is unlikely to be completed until 2015.

Q. In our Rules it states that a visitor can only visit the Club twice per month although this Rule is seldom enforced. I would prefer the Rule to be either enforced or to remove it altogether. Do you have a view?

A. Your rule needs amended. In Northern Ireland, visitors are

only permitted to visit a club twenty times per annum. For club members however, there is no restriction on the number of visits made by immediate family members.

Q. Our Rules state that the Club's Annual General Meeting should be held in the month of April although our Audit will not be ready until May. Should we delay the AGM?

A. Your AGM should always be held within two months of your financial year-end. If this cannot be achieved then you are required to notify the PSNI.

Q. We have a Member who has been nominated for the position of Treasurer. We are concerned that he is not aware of what responsibilities the position entails and that he may not be up to the job. Can a Committee block a nomination if the candidate is not suitable?

A. The Committee does not have any powers to block the nomination. In fact, if there are no other nominations for the position then there will not even be a vote and the nominated person will be automatically elected. The Committee has no power to refuse a nomination. It is for the Members, not the current Committee, to determine whom is elected. Prior to the election, it may be best to make the nominee aware of the responsibilities he would be undertaking, if successful in being elected to the position.

Get the devil out

The angels have their share

McCabes are pleased to announce a bold, new bourbon with flavour unlocked from inside the barrel wood; JIM BEAM DEVIL'S CUT.

Devil's Cut is a premium product brought to you by Jim Beam, the No.1 Bourbon in the World. During the aging process, some Bourbon naturally evaporates and escapes the barrel. This is known as 'the angel's share'. The Devil's Cut is the portion that is trapped in the barrel wood during the aging process where it remains ...until now.

To create Jim Beam Devil's Cut, an extraordinary new bourbon experience, an exclusive process is used that actually pulls the rich whiskey trapped inside the barrels' wood after they're emptied. This barrel-treated extract is held until it develops the proper balance of bourbon notes, then blended with 6 year old bourbon. The result: a robust, premium bourbon with a deep colour, aroma and character.

Devil's Cut is exclusively available from James E. McCabe Ltd. Please speak to your Sales Representative for further details.



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Bushmills launch new 'Honey' whiskey

World-famous Irish Whiskey, Bushmills, has launched the latest addition to its collection of premium blends and single malts – Bushmills Irish Honey.

Blended using Bushmills Irish Whiskey and just a touch of pure Irish honey, the newest member to the Bushmills family, “offers consumers a new choice that mixes well, is approachable and unique in its own right”, said Master Distiller Colum Egan.

Speaking at the launch Colum said, “Bushmills has a long history of innovation. For centuries, distillers have experimented with barrel finishes and blends, and today at the old Bushmills Distillery we aim to continue to expand

this tradition with the launch of Bushmills Irish Honey.”

The Irish whiskey category has experienced recent growth in innovation. With different barrel finishes and flavouring the category has been expanding to engage new consumers by offering choice and some differentiation.

It's a strategy that has delivered great success across the Diageo portfolio, to include; Baileys flavours such as Orange Truffle and Hazelnut; the Smirnoff flavours which are made using real fruit; and Pimms Winter, a twist on the summer favourite.

“Bushmills Irish Honey is a great illustration of innovation within Bushmills and Diageo,

building on the trend of offering consumers quality choices”, said Jennifer Kiernan, Brand Manager Western Europe Bushmills Irish Whiskey.

“We are really excited about, and proud of, Bushmills Irish Honey, it is a beautiful blend of our Bushmills Irish Whiskey and real Irish Honey. We believe it will enable us to further reignite the whiskey category, and allow the brand to attract new consumers. It will encourage consumers to re-look at whiskey and Bushmills and inspire them to experiment, responsibly of course, with a category they may not have explored before.”

For more information about Bushmills Irish Honey and to



find cocktail recipes, visit the website: www.bushmills.com or Facebook: [facebook.com/bushmills1608](https://www.facebook.com/bushmills1608)

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bringing power to the people

Caledonia Smooth ad hits NI airwaves

Caledonia Smooth returned to Northern Ireland TV screens recently with an advertising campaign set to a new recording of one of Scotland's best-loved songs, 'Caledonia'.

On-air throughout the month of April, the 40-second film showed the journey of a young man through his years of changing loves, looks and lifestyles, before he finally finds contentment.

In a major coup for the brand, the campaign's soundtrack featured a reworking of Dougie

MacLean's classic 'Caledonia', performed by rising stars of the Scottish music scene Anderson, McGinty, Webster, Ward and Fisher.

The advert was directed by Noah Harris, and was filmed in a fast-paced timelapse format, with the gaze of the camera rarely wavering from a man and his position at the bar of his local. As his pint was poured and began to settle, various stages of his life were shown - the best friends, the short-lived girlfriends and the questionable clothes and haircuts. As the ad

drew to a close, the man was seen settling into life with the confidence that comes with time and experience- like a pint of Caledonia Smooth, every man takes time to settle.

Tennent's NI Innovation & Customer Marketing Manager Paul McGurk commented, "As we set out to create our first TV ad for Caledonia Smooth, we wanted to capture the role of the local pub/club in the social lives of our drinkers. We knew they would easily relate to the highs and lows that are experienced before life feels more settled, and would identify Caledonia Smooth at the heart of so many special moments."

To view the TV ad visit facebook.com/caledoniasmoothni



Crabbies launches new summer flavours

Crabbie's, producers of the ever popular Crabbie's Alcoholic Ginger Beer, which is distributed in Northern Ireland by United Wine Merchants, is launching two enticing new favours for summer. Curiously Crisp Scottish Raspberry and Simply Scrumptious Strawberry & Lime will be available in the off and on trade from this month and are produced especially with those who enjoy a fruitier beverage in mind.

Clare McMahon, Marketing Manager, United Wine Merchants commented, "Crabbie's Spiced Orange Alcoholic Ginger Beer proved itself a fantastic extension to Crabbie's Original Alcoholic Ginger Beer, capturing the imagination of those drinkers looking for something refreshing and a little different.

Both the Spiced Orange and the Original perform extremely well in the Northern Ireland market. Served over ice, the new variants provide a thirst-quenching beverage that is perfect for summer drinking occasions that we are confident will go down well with anyone who enjoys a fruity drink."



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Raven Social Club passes the £12,000 for NI Chest Heart and Stroke

Members of the Raven Social Club in east Belfast have raised over £12,000 for Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke through a series of fundraising events in memory of former club Chairman, David Ervine.

The Raven Social Club recently held a charity fundraising night and sponsored walk, which helped generate over £3,000 for NICHHS, an amazing achievement in the current economic climate. The latest fundraising efforts at the Raven means the total amount of money raised by the East Belfast Club has now exceeded £12,000.

The fundraising programme, which began in 2008, raises money for NICHHS in memory of the former MLA, who passed away in 2007.

Club Chairman Stephen Beattie, the founder of the fundraising campaign, is delighted by the financial support from club members and the wider Belfast community.

Stephen said, "We are absolutely delighted to reach the £12,000

milestone and we're incredibly grateful for the support from everyone who has helped us achieve this fantastic landmark. Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke is a fantastic charity that we're all incredibly passionate about, and we're really happy that David's name lives on through our fundraisers and donations to the charity."

Jan Harvey of NICHHS, who received the cheque from Stephen and Mrs Jeanette Ervine, said: "Thank-you to everyone involved in organising and supporting the events at the Raven. The money is used locally in the care and prevention of chest, heart and stroke illnesses. NICHHS cares for patients, helping them take control of their future through its Self Management Programmes, as well as supporting families and carers. We also fund research into the prevention of these illnesses and campaign and lobby on behalf of patients and their families. Together we are improving prevention methods and developing better clinical services for local people."



(L-R) Mrs Jeanette Ervine, Raven Chairman; Stephen Beattie; and Jan Harvey of NICHHS.

A poster for the 'Football Frenzy Tournament 2013'. The top half features a blurred image of a footballer in a red shirt and black shorts kicking a white and black soccer ball. The text 'Football Frenzy Tournament 2013' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, in smaller red and black text, it says 'Billy Neill Centre of Excellence, Comber Road' and 'Saturday 1st June 2013 at 10am'. The bottom half of the poster has a green background with the 'Action Cancer' logo (a red heart with a white cross) and the tagline 'Saving Lives Supporting People'. It then lists details: 'We are looking for 6-a-side teams of men and women to get in on the Action.', 'Have some fun and help Action Cancer at the same time!', 'For an entry pack call Action Cancer on 028 9080 3349 or email erncastle@actioncancer.org', 'Prizes for winning team & runners up', 'Registration £50', 'Team Sponsorship £300', and the website 'www.actioncancer.org'. At the bottom right, it says 'Charity Registration No: XN 48533'.

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UGAAWA Monthly Merit Awards

Nobody breathed a bigger sigh of relief than James Kielt when the final whistle sounded in the Allianz NFL Div.2 final, at Croke Park. Derry had beaten Westmeath in a grandstand finish and the Kilrea man was on the winning side.

His contribution to that victory was immense and it has earned him the Ulster GAA Writers' Merit Award for April. Not only was his four points a handsome contribution to the Oak Leaf success, his general play was a major part of the team's victory.

"I've had a very poor success rate in finals, losing many at club and county levels, so to be on the winning side in a national final was very pleasing indeed," says James. "We really needed to win that final and it sets us up well for the Ulster Championship.

"I'm also very happy at winning this award as there

were a lot of great personal performances during April. Our final produced many top class displays and there were other good shows from Tyrone and Monaghan."

He added, "It can't be bad to win any personal award, but to win this one after a national final is excellent."

Last year, was a disappointing one for James as he was laid low for long periods with injuries. However, all those are now cleared up and having a steady spot in the Derry team means a lot to him.



A delighted James Kielt with his April Merit Award.



(L-R) UGAAWA Chairman John Martin with the March Monthly Merit winner, Stephen O'Neill, and Kieran Kennedy from O'Neill's International Sports.

Picture by Philip Fitzpatrick



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2004

Yanks get spanked!

A triumphant Colin Montgomerie celebrates at the 18th hole.



Europe firmly stamped its mark in Ryder Cup history in 2004 with a record win over the USA. Over the three days, the European team ripped up the form book and defied the Official Golf World Rankings to retain the trophy at Oakland Hills Country Club in California.

Bernhard Langer's team were always in command and went into the final day's singles match with a controlling 11-5 advantage. They only needed three and a half points to retain the trophy.

Sergio Garcia was first to make his mark, by overturning Phil Mickelson's advantage to win three and two. Darren Clarke chipped in with half a point in his match with Davis Love, before Lee Westwood put Europe on the cusp of victory after beating Kenny Perry. It was fitting that the honour of winning the cup would fall upon Colin Montgomerie. The 41-year-old had been suffering from a number of personal problems, which had dominated the pre-match headlines. However, all that was forgotten as he sank the winning putt on the eighteenth green. Monty was all square with David Toms after 15 holes, but birdied the next to go in front. He kept his nerve to the end and holed his putt before bursting into floods of tears.

Greece win shocks Europe

Sometimes a team with no stars and precious little flair can work wonders by finding a unity of purpose under a coach with a genius for organization. Such a phenomenon occurred at Euro 2004 in Portugal, where a team that had never won a match in a major final, and began as 100-1 outsiders, took the tournament by storm.

Greece, whose coach was a cantankerous German called Otto Rehhagel, started as they finished - by humbling mighty Portugal



Greece celebrate their unbelievable win.

and their superstar, Luis Figo. Then Angelos Charisteas shot through the legs of Iker Casillas to bag a draw against Spain, and a goal from Zisis Vryzas in a 2-1 defeat by Russia saved the Greeks from elimination.

They were still not rated, but they were getting good in the air. Charisteas headed his country's sixty-fifth minute winner to knock out France in the quarter-finals, Traianos Delias put out the Czechs the same way in the semi-final, and then the head of Charisteas proved decisive again in the fifty-seventh minute of the showpiece against Portugal. No one could quite believe what was happening, least of all the Portuguese team and their fans, who had come to crown Figo, the Real Madrid star, king of Europe at last. But Greece held on to complete the impossible dream, and Rehhagel safely predicted, 'This story will go around the world.'

Greece captain, Theo Zagorakis won Player of the Tournament, and the heroic Charisteas announced, 'This is the biggest moment in Greek football history.' On the international stage, it was the only moment in Greek football history, and neutrals loved the romance of it.

Also this year...

Snooker - Having lost the first 5 frames, Ronnie O'Sullivan recovered in tremendous style to crush Graham Dott 18-8 in the World Championship final at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

Cricket - Australia's Shane Warne, became the first spinner in the history of the game to take 500 Test wickets.

Athletics - Kelly Holmes took gold in the 800 & 1,500m races at the Athens Olympic games.

Rugby - France won the 110th Six Nations Championship, completing the Grand Slam in the process.

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