

Club Review

VOLUME 26 - Issue 8, 2013



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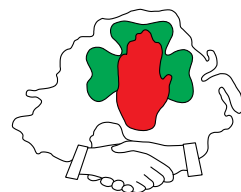


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Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the West Belfast H.P.S.,
on Saturday 9th November 2013



The Chairman opened the meeting, following which he invited the Secretary to read the minutes of the October meeting. The minutes were proposed by Gerry Gallagher and seconded by Tommy McMinn.

The Chairman continued by covering correspondence received in the preceding month.

Continuing, the Chairman covered details of the Federation's meeting with Stephen Hewitt and Brian Magill of Belfast City Council, in regard to the amount of certification required for a registered club in applying for an entertainments license.

The various aspects of the process were highlighted to the Executive Committee with an outline of the way in which we intend to focus attention on streamlining the aforesaid process.

Correspondence submitted to Belfast City Council by our Health and Safety advisor, Lyle Dunn, which supports

the work underlined in our meeting with the Council officials Stephen Hewitt and Brian Magill, was read out.

A financial report was presented by the Federation Treasurer, Davy Larmour. This was subsequently proposed and seconded by Tommy McMinn and Joe Patterson.

The meeting continued to cover details of individual club issues, some of which are more serious than others, but which we are hopeful of being able to resolve to everyone's satisfaction in due course. One such issue involved Gerry Gallagher and Jim Wilson, providing detailed information on issues in the North West.

The Chairman continued to cover details of other club issues which we have been able to address.

Contracts of employment have been provided for the use of some member clubs with the recommendation that they are submitted to the LRA for approval.

In all cases we recommend that contracts are forwarded to the LRA for accreditation prior to presenting to an employee. Members should be reassured that the Federation undertake not to become involved in the internal management of a club unless invited to do so. This was, and remains, our position since inception of the Federation.

Joe Patterson provided an analogy of a situation where an employee overstepped, or assumed more control, than he

was entitled to. This is often the case with queries/assistance by member clubs.

Joe continued to raise another matter regarding a challenge in the courts as to the way in which benefits are awarded.

The meeting was concluded with the Chairman thanking Hugh Stockman of the West Belfast HPS for the excellent hospitality provided.

Robert McGlone
Secretary, N.I.F.C.

N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

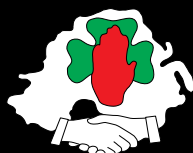
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Emerging from recession at last?



John Davidson,
Chairman, NIFC



Bob McGlone
Secretary, NIFC.

As we enter into 2014 we are optimistic that the green shoots of recovery are more likely to flourish than in previous years.

Although times are still difficult, we feel that local government is more aware of the need to assist the leisure industry. Minister McCausland has thankfully recognised the need to reconsider further aspects of the licensing legislation; which if approved, particularly in regard to the clubs sector, will be very helpful.

With the need to submit a fire risk assessment when applying for an entertainments license, we entered into talks with Belfast City Council in a search to provide a more streamlined/workable application procedure. From our discussions it seems

evident that Council officials are of a like mind, having acknowledged the need to update matters. We are keen to see this in place sooner rather than later, however it is important that the effectiveness of the license is not impinged and that public safety, and that the safety of our members and their guests is maintained.

In discussions with our advisor Lyle Dunn, we hope to have a suitable template provided by Belfast City Council which can be fine tuned to meet our requirements, which in turn will be made available for download on the Federation website.

The series of meetings with major suppliers has established excellent lines of communication, as a result of which we continue to advise management committees to open accounts with all those companies now servicing the club sector.

We are aware that throughout 2013 a number of clubs reduced opening hours and staffing levels to get the ship on an even keel and although some members may have raised their eyebrows at these developments it should be acknowledged that it was done with good intention to assure the future of the club.

From time to time the restriction on advertising continues to present problems, however it is anticipated this restriction will be removed in the Minister's review. Although clubs can legally advertise, it is required to structure advertising in a particular way which in the modern day is an uncalled-for piece of nonsense which sees the PSNI acting, in most cases,

upon a complaint being received. This is restrictive practice and a law which places an unnecessary administrative burden on the PSNI who are already working under severe pressure.

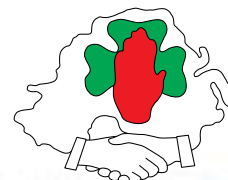
We take this opportunity to thank our fellow executive committee members for their continued commitment throughout the year. In addition, it is important to register our gratitude to all those companies which have supported us year on year, to include their support of Club Review, so important for conveying information to our member clubs and their respective members.

Special thanks is extended to the following:

Media Marketing for the administrative facilities which are placed at our disposal; Federation solicitor, Maura McKay of Shean, Dickson, Merrick and Federation accountant, Lawrence Shearer of O'Hara Shearer.

Our member clubs can be assured that as in all previous years, we will not become complacent but will rather continue to be ever watchful, acting in the best interests of our sector members.

In conclusion, we wish club management committees and their respective members, compliments of the season and extend very best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



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Damien McGlinchey
Independent energy advisor.

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usage with good housekeeping or replacing lighting or equipment. The second way is to ensure that you have the best deal from your supplier.

In the past, clubs have been recommended to look for the best tariff and consider switching supplier - not always the easiest of tasks. Given that most club management committees are extremely busy sitting down to work your way through the numerous options can prove to be an odious piece of work.

This task however is now as easy as it's possible to be. The N.I. Federation of Clubs are now delighted to be able to recommend a **FREE SERVICE**, provided by a

trusted independent, Damien McGlinchey, who has shown us that by means of a simple bill check, there may be great savings to be identified.

A recent review of sample clubs identified savings of 10% at some sites, while others were content to find that they were already getting a good deal.

This simple process involves nothing more complicated than providing a few copies of recent bills to Damien. After reviewing your bills, potential savings can then be identified, and with your approval, any changes will be implemented - **ALL AT NO COST TO YOU!**



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Well done Portadown Golf Club

Portadown Golf Club has seen some magnificent fundraising taking place recently with over £20,000 being generated for good causes, a truly tremendous effort by all concerned.

Amongst the events that took place was a Golf Day that raised £11,000 for 'Lucy's Fund'. Lucy White lives in Scotland with Portadown-born father James and mother Emma, and she is undergoing vital tests in Glasgow as research into her illness continues.

The Golf Day was organised by her dad's Portadown College school friends David Dunlop and Ryan Irwin, with the evening 'do' in the hands of

her uncle Paul Wright. At the evening event a charity raffle was held with starring lots such as signed items by Rory McIlroy and a Muirfield Open flag, signed by top golfers, to name only a few.

Other charity days saw £5,564.50 being raised with the proceeds divided equally between Chest Heart & Stroke and Macmillan Cancer Support. The most recent charity day raised a further £4235.50 with the proceeds again being split equally between two worthy charities, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the NI Children's Hospice.

In these hard-hitting economic times that we presently find ourselves in, it is fantastic that



(L-R): Raymond Gilmore (organiser), representative from NI Chest Heart and Stroke, PGC Lady Captain Eithne Little, representative from Macmillan Cancer Support and PGC Mr Captain Hugo Marley.

so many people have helped in such a tangible way to really make a difference to those who need help the most.

The Federation applauds everyone at Portadown Golf Club for making these events such a success.

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RAOB charity awards day

Federation P.R.O., Harry Beckinsale, had the good fortune to be invited to the Headquarters of the RAOB in Belfast on Saturday 23rd November 2013 to witness the organisation's annual Charity Awards Day.

Each year a province is given the opportunity to nominate their chosen charity which this year saw Carrickfergus nominate the N.I. Cancer Fund for Children and Holiday of a Lifetime, each of which received £5,000, with further donations anticipated in the coming months.

Speaking on behalf of the N.I. Cancer Fund for Children, Chief Executive, Gillian Creevy, spoke on the development of the charity's new complex at Shimna Valley in Newcastle and the value of support, such as that received from the RAOB, provided.

The Federation P.R.O. was in attendance to take photographs and thought it appropriate to provide the following insight into the work of this charitable organisation which has made a significant contribution to various charities in Northern Ireland over many years.

The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) is one of the largest fraternal organisations in the UK. The order started in 1822 and is now more commonly known as the Buffs.

The Order's motto 'No Man Is At All Times Wise' has the maxim of Justice, Truth and Philanthropy.

The RAOB began in the Harp Tavern (opposite the Drury

Lane Theatre, London) by the artist Joseph Lisle and comedian William Sinnett, along with other stage-hands and theatre technicians in August 1822. It drew its then name of The Buffaloes from a popular song of the time, "We'll chase the Buffalo?". This first meeting is historically the 'Phoenix Lodge No.1'. As members toured the country with various shows lodges were opened in other towns.

During the 19th Century the Order spread throughout the British Commonwealth and Lodges now exist in Britain, Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Middle East, India, Africa, Gibraltar and Cyprus.

As the Order spread through the United Kingdom, when a lodge opened in a new area, it became the Mother Lodge, from which subsequent Minor Lodges would be opened. This Mother Lodge would support and advise new lodges on rules and administration of membership. These Mother Lodges developed into the body responsible for administration and organisation and as the Order grew District Grand Lodges and later Provincial Grand Lodges were opened.

The addition of Antediluvian (meaning before the time of the



Members of the RAOB present Gillian Creevy, NI Cancer Fund for Children Chief Executive, with 5,000. An additional £5,000 was presented to Holiday of a Lifetime.

flood in the Bible) to the title occurred in the 1850s.

However, the Royal Warrant Act required any organisation using the 'Royal' prefix to register with the Lord Chamberlain's Office and to desist from using the title if permission was not granted. Since the Buffaloes had been using the title from the 1840s, the Lord Chamberlain agreed that no objection would be raised on continued use of the title on the grounds of long usage, provided no act by the Order arose that would disgrace its use.

The First World War led to temporary or even permanent closure of many Lodges due to the enlistment of members. The Buffs supported the war effort through supplying ambulances to bring wounded soldiers back from the front lines. Initially six motorised ambulances were purchased and sent, with each one manned

by 'Volunteer Buffs'. More followed and, on their return after the war, the ambulances formed the first ambulance service in England.

The RAOB continues its work in the local community helping all those its members promise to help and assist in times of difficulty or need with Minor Lodges throughout the United Kingdom and the rest of the world continuing to raise money for charities and charitable causes.

Membership of the RAOB is open to all males over the age of 18, except communists (as members are required to declare allegiance to their home country's constitutional authority). Politics, religion or gambling is strictly forbidden at gatherings.

Charitable funds exist at Lodge, Province and Grand Lodge levels to assist members of the Order and/or their dependents requiring assistance.

Questions & Answers

Q. We are looking into showing Premiership Football for our Members. What is the current situation regarding foreign broadcasters and what are the legal options that we can consider?

A. The only definitive legal way to show Premiership Football is through Sky Sports and BT Sport who between them hold the copyright required in order to broadcast Premiership Football within the UK. If Sky Sports are proving too expensive then you may wish to look into BT Sport which offers less content than Sky but equally at a significantly lower price point than Sky. For example, this season, BT are showing 38 Premiership games compared to Sky's 116 games and the price of each service reflects this content difference. The current situation regarding Premiership Football being received from providers outside the UK is still unclear, although there are several court cases which are currently on-going which we hope will provide greater clarity on the legalities on such systems. The Premier League's position is that any broadcast from outside of the UK breaches UK copyright law and recent cases have backed up this position. It is fair to assume that at the moment

these copyright considerations include broadcasts made over the internet which we have had some enquiries about.

There have recently been a number of prosecutions brought against establishments for using foreign satellite systems although a clear legal precedent is yet to be established.

Q. We have an employee who has been employed by us for 15 months. Can you clarify the current legislation concerning whether, if they are dismissed, they could claim that they were unfairly dismissed and take the Club to an employment tribunal?

A. The general rule of thumb is that if an employee has commenced their employment since April 2012 that they will have to have been employed for 24 months before being able to claim that they have been unfairly dismissed although there are some notable exceptions to this rule (dismissals based on sex or race for instance).

I can therefore confirm that if they have been employed since April 2012 then the 24 month qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims will apply if they are dismissed for any reason apart from one of the protected characteristics - these include dismissals for reasons such as pregnancy or maternity leave, trades union membership, whistle-blowing, reporting health and safety risks or assertion of statutory rights.

Q. Can you let us know if an employee is able to work alone inside the Club? Our cleaner works on her own in the morning prior to the Club opening.

A. I can confirm that it is perfectly legal to allow an employee to work alone and that in many Clubs the Club's cleaner will often perform their duties on their own simply because of when the cleaning takes place. Having said that, the Club does have a duty of care to its employees and if any employee is concerned about working on their own then such concerns should be appropriately addressed by the Committee. In any event, it would be worth performing a risk assessment to assess if there are any inherent risks for an employee working alone (*a cellar door which could inadvertently lock an employee inside for instance*).


Q. The Committee has recently questioned if the Club should have a formal 'whistle-

blowing' procedure in place for employees wishing to report something which is wrong. Do you have any advice as to how such a policy could be formed?

A. I am not aware of a Club which actually has in place a specific 'whistle-blowing procedure'. I would suggest that a Member of the Committee, possibly the Club's Secretary, is simply appointed as a point of contact for the Club's employees. The Club's employees should then be encouraged to speak to the appointed contact person regarding any issues which have arisen or problems which they have.


For help on these, or any other club issues, please feel free to call the helplines (pg3).






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Will your club be in the cold this winter?

It is often the case that problems arise at the worst possible time, and now that we are in the midst of winter weather, those problems will probably begin manifesting in burst pipes and breakdowns, affecting heating boilers, gas or oil. It may make good sense to keep the contact details of 'Houston Thornton & Co.' handy.

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Why Do Pipes Burst?

Pipes burst because of the nature of freezing water and the structure of the materials used to construct water pipes. It is

possible to prevent, in some cases. The reason pipes burst is because water expands as it freezes. If this expansion occurs in a closed environment such as a water pipe, there could be substantial pressure placed on the inner walls of the pipe material, whether it be iron, lead or PVC. Even if a pipe is strong enough to handle the occasional stress of frozen water, the cumulative effect can weaken the structural integrity of the pipe and eventually it will burst. The good news is that most pipes are protected from bursting because they are either covered with insulation or located in areas that rarely, if ever, reach the freezing point of water. There may be sections of piping that are routinely exposed to freezing temperatures



or could be compromised if the insulation fails, however. These pipes break because the air temperature causes the water to freeze along the inner walls and create a blockage. The pressure of the expanding ice on a weakened section of pipe combined with the pressure of flowing water backing up behind the blockage can cause a break without warning.

There is a reason why many professionals recommend leaving a trickle of water flowing through taps during cold weather. If water is allowed to remain still in a pipe, exposed to the cold air, the water may freeze solid and the pipe may

burst. If the water continues to flow, even in a trickle, it won't have the opportunity to freeze and the pipes should survive until the air temperature warms above freezing. When pipes burst due to freezing, it may not be realised until there is a flood or the overall water pressure is reduced. It is important to keep water flowing through pipes during cold weather, although hot water pipes may resist the freezing process better than cold water pipes. If pipes burst due to freezing, you are advised to shut off the main water supply to minimize future damage and call a professional plumber as soon as possible to find the leak and repair the damage.

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Refurbishment of your club

a financial balancing act

Deciding to refurbish a club, particularly in the current economic climate, is understandably a big decision to take – but what is the alternative?

It is reasonable to assume that we all like our little bit of home luxury and what we expect in our club environment is no different.

There is a lot of choice in the leisure sector today and while it is no guarantee, it is safe to assume that a well fitted-out club is certainly more likely to attract members to attend. The modern day registered club is a far cry from bygone days when they were more closely viewed

as working men's clubs, which provided tremendous social, sport and recreational facilities.

Today Northern Ireland's registered clubs provide the perfect setting in which to enjoy sports, social and leisure activities.

Of course the close association with sport should be recognised with the sector contributing substantial financial underpinning of the entire spectrum of sport in the province, whereas in mainland UK, the majority of clubs are working men's clubs.

So upgrading/refurbishing a club could be viewed as money

well spent and brings to mind a comment we have regularly made 'those that prepare best suffer less'.

If your club has recently been refurbished please forward photographs and details for publishing in forthcoming issues of Club Review – we also want to highlight club events, including



Forthriver Bowling Club, recently refurbished by PCI.

charity nights, so please forward all information to us and we'll be delighted to feature your club in coming issues..

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R22 gas to be phased out

If your club is still using old air-conditioning units to heat your club and they are more than nine years old they will contain the refrigerant R22 gas in them. This is being phased out next year by the European Union.

R22 remains one of the most commonly used refrigerants in the UK so many clubs will be affected by this ban

This change in the law will also apply to any clubs who are using very old cellar coolers which again, will almost certainly contain this gas, and be very expensive to run.

It will become illegal to use any HCFCs to service refrigerating



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'Harpy' Christmas

Local lager brand reveals Northern Irish people are a bunch of optimists

A new seasonal survey from Harp lager has revealed that almost 80% of people in Northern Ireland describe themselves as 'optimists' showing that we really do 'Look on Harp Side'. The findings came to light in a festive survey conducted by one of Northern Ireland's leading lagers, Harp, to uncover 'What defines a Northern Irish Christmas?'. The study also revealed that 64% of us have more fun at Christmas than at any other time of the year and that a night out with loved ones was the most eagerly anticipated event during the festive season.

Here are the top 5 things we can't get enough of at Christmas

1. **Presents** - 87% admitted they spent more on presents at Christmas than birthdays or any other occasion.
2. **Singing and Banter** - A whopping 84% of us distract ourselves with conversations with strangers or humming along to a Christmas tune (with Band Aid 'Do They Know It's Christmas Time' the festive favourite) when stuck in festive queues.

3. **Friends & family** - 75% voted a reunion with loved ones as their favourite Christmas ritual.
4. **Christmas Parties** - 71% say a Christmas night out with friends and family is the top way to spend their hard-earned cash. (*Respondents in Antrim and Derry-Londonderry viewed a night out with friends with greater anticipation than anything else measured*)
5. **Movie Re-runs** - 70% voted Elf the top Christmas movie.

Honourable mentions also go to:

Cheesy Christmas jumpers 33% proudly admitted to owning a Christmas jumper And unsurprisingly bringing up the rear were Brussel sprouts with nearly half of us classifying them as a Christmas no-go!

But that's not all; 2013 was remembered as a year to be proud of Northern Ireland, with over two thirds of local people feeling that this year was indeed 'Our Time, Our Place' - so it's little wonder that almost 95% choose to celebrate the season at 'ho-ho-home'!

Colum Campbell, Brand



The Harp Angel pictured with model, Briege McCartney.

Manager for Harp commented, "Last month the Office of National Statistics released figures claiming that the people of Northern Ireland were happier than those in any other part of the UK and our research confirms just that, showing that at Christmas our optimistic spirit is even more apparent. The people of Northern Ireland certainly know how to look on the Harp side! This mentality reflects the thinking behind our new campaign 'Look

on the Harp Side' which is characterised through the Harp Angel. He's a character who truly embodies the Northern Irish outlook on life and he'll be taking to the streets over the coming weeks to help champion the innate optimistic spirit evident across Northern Ireland."

For more information on HARP and to find out where the Harp Angel will be over Christmas visit www.facebook.com/harp.

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Smirnoff encourages you to 'think outside the glass' when creating drinks

Marvin Humes has teamed up with Smirnoff to turn his hand from mixing records to mixing drinks. The DJ and radio presenter has created a selection of bespoke Smirnoff cocktails, as part of the 'Yours for the Making' campaign.

Marvin is encouraging the people of Northern Ireland to get creative and experiment with cocktail making – using everyday objects and experiences as inspiration. Drawing on his interests, passions and memorable moments such as holidaying in the Caribbean and his love of hot chocolate, Marvin mixed together flavours and ingredients to create a range of creative cocktails, and is calling on NI cocktail lovers to do the same.

Marvin Humes said, "I've enjoyed many visits to Northern Ireland and had a cosmopolitan or two in Belfast – the Northern Irish love their cocktails. Taking inspiration from everyday life means you can create drinks that you may not otherwise have thought of. It has been fun going down memory lane and thinking about the most important things in my life to spark creativity, and the result has been some fantastic drinks!

My favourite creation has to be my 'Rochelle Sundae', which is inspired by my love for Rochelle and reminds me of when we first met. I've found my creative flare working with Smirnoff and realised that all it takes is a little inspiration. I want to encourage everyone in NI to have a go and see just how easy it can be to create delicious tasting cocktails."

Marvin's top tips for successful cocktail making:

1. Be more experimental – never would I have thought to put jam in a cocktail before, yet it tastes so good!
2. Think outside the glass – cocktails don't have to be served out of traditional glasses. When you're finished with your jam jars, keep them for parties! Not only are they perfect for shaking cocktails in, but they add a twist to the ordinary.
3. Get inventive with ice – jazz up your cocktail with shaped ice cubes, crushed ice and even molded ice that can be used to decorate your drink. Check out my Inventive Smirnoff cocktails including my 'Rochelle Sundae' at <http://uk.thebar.com/OutsideTheGlass> for some inspiration....

Emma Sherwood-Smith, Smirnoff Marketing Manager Western Europe said, "We're thrilled to be working with Marvin on this campaign and seeing these cocktails come to life from just a spark of inspiration. Everyday items such as jam jars and teapots are currently on trend and, as we've seen, have already started to be used in outlets across the country. We're encouraging the UK to get creative - all you need is a little bit of inspiration and drinks can be easy to make yourself!"

From the copper mug that inspired the Moscow Mule to the coffee cup, Smirnoff has always thought 'outside the glass'.

Visit <http://uk.thebar.com/OutsideTheGlass> for fun Smirnoff recipes and ideas.

Radio DJ Marvin Humes creates his own Rochelle Sunday cocktail inspired by the things she loves at the Smirnoff 'Yours For The Making' event in London.



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Jägermeister give it a shot

Jägermeister is a German herbal liqueur made with a secret blend of 56 herbs, roots and spices. Today Jägermeister is one of the fastest growing shot brands in the UK.

It is unique, it is cool, and it is the ICE COLD 'in' drink. The history of Jägermeister is distinguished by pride in the unique taste coupled with respect for traditional craftsmanship. The secret of success is the unique character of Jägermeister that provides an unforgettable experience, glass after glass.

The Jägermeister taste is complex and spicy, richly warming to the spirit,



combining well-balanced flavours of citrus, ginger, star anise and gentle, pleasing herbal bitterness.

Jägermeister is the outstanding consumer favourite and essential to creating a party atmosphere!

Christmas is a good time for Magners

It's a sound almost as traditional as sleigh bells - the crackling of ice as another crisp, refreshing Magners Original Irish Cider is poured. Just as important for the licensed trade, those perfect pints also bring the welcome jingling of tills.

This year, just as pubs and clubs across the country are preparing for what we all hope will be profitable as well as a peaceful yuletide season, Magners is updating the premium look and feel of packaging right across its entire product range.

The refreshed packaging will be reaching the shelves just as revellers are reaching for their favourite cider.

The new-look packaging for the much-loved Magners product range features a warm and inviting colour palette designed to appeal to target consumers and attract their attention to the product range, while conveying a sense of the brand's rich Irish heritage.

Fiona Creedon, Magners Brand Manager, delighted with the reinforced visual standout for the brand, says, "While it maintains the strong, long established Magners feel, the new look gives an instantly identifiable, colour 'code' to Magners products which



should make life easier for busy bartenders. It also helps consumers to choose their favourite option at a glance and, because the packaging is so striking, it will encourage trial across what is a fantastic, carefully selected and nurtured range of flavour variants.

"Times have undoubtedly been challenging for both the on and off trade in recent years, but this latest investment in our great brand is evidence of our determination to help maximise the opportunities ahead."

The new look will be rolling out from Christmas onwards ... just in time for seasonal cheers! So now is a good time for Magners.

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Wolf Blass named 'International Winemaker of the Year'

Leading Australian winery, Wolf Blass, has been named International Winemaker of the Year at the 2013 International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC) in London. This is the third time that Wolf Blass, distributed in N.I. by United Wine Merchants, has won this highly acclaimed award, the first being 1992 followed by 2002.

The IWSC was established in 1969 and is recognised as one of the world's most prestigious and influential wine competitions with exhibitors from almost 90 countries as well as boasting the most highly qualified and trained group of international judges of any wine and spirit competition.

On top of being named International Winemaker of the Year, Wolf Blass dominated the competition being awarded four trophies including:

- Australian Producer of the Year
- Best Single Vineyard Red Wine for the Wolf Blass Platinum Label 2008
- Best Single Vineyard White Wine for the Wolf Blass White Label Riesling 2001
- Best Riesling for Wolf Blass White Label Riesling 2001

Wolf Blass Chief Winemaker, Chris Hatcher says this win caps off an exceptional year for us on the Global stage.

"Winning International Winemaker of the Year at one of the world's most respected and prestigious wine competitions is incredibly special. It is particularly pleasing to receive the highest



Steven Frost (Wolf Blass Senior Winemaker), Wolfgang Blass & Chris Hatcher (Wolf Blass Chief Winemaker).

accolade for our Single Vineyard wines – Platinum Label Shiraz 2008 from our Medlands Estate "Orchard" vineyard and White Label Riesling 2001 from Rogers Block in Eden Valley. Both outstanding expressions of regional excellence.

"This is a great reward and recognition of the dedication and hard work our winemaking and viticultural teams put into making exceptional quality wines and I am extremely proud of them.

"We treasure awards won at respected International wine competitions as they are a true independent assessment of our wines from some of the most experienced and respected wine judges in the world."

Single Serve from UWM

Single Serve is a fast growing sector throughout the Wine Market, both in terms of demand and sales.

The growth in popularity of the United Wine Merchants extensive mini-bottle range has been astounding. We are now able to offer a wide choice of market leading and award winning brands in quarter bottles from a variety of countries, styles and grape. It is the perfect solution for both the On-Trade and the consumer.

Ease of dispense, minimal investment, and maximum choice are the benefits for

the trade - whilst consumer enjoys choice, quality and the reassurance of fresh glass of their favourite brand every time.

Single serve range now includes - McGuigans Black Label (Australia), Chilano (Chile), Wolf Blass (Australian), Bella Vie (Italian), Orario (Australia), Los Cardos (Argentinian)



Lambrini introduces free bodyguard protection

Leading wine style drink, Lambrini, is helping to keep its consumers safe by introducing a free Bodyguard as part of a nationwide campaign to encourage responsible drinking over the festive season. The virtual Bodyguard is a free-to-download application for android and iPhone users, which has a range of functions including an alcohol unit counter that calculates the amount of alcohol consumed from a drinks list.

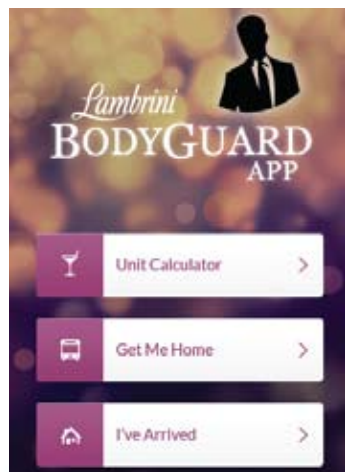
Promoted on 2.4 million bottles across all four variants of Lambrini, distributed in Northern Ireland by United Wine Merchants, the Bodyguard App pulls in real time data from local public transport services so users can plan their journeys ahead of a night out.

Its 'Get Me home' tool uses the GPS functionality on users' handsets to locate the nearest form of transport and advises of the last available train, bus or tram plus onward connections. And when the night draws to a close, the Bodyguard will even find users' their very own chauffeur in a form of private taxi firm from a list of local companies including contact details to make a booking.

Emma Haughian, Brand Manager for Lambrini, commented, "The Bodyguard App will be promoted on-pack

via a QR code and supported by a social media and PR campaign that reminds consumers to stay safe during Christmas."

The BodyGuard App is available on Android and iPhone and can be downloaded via <http://lambrini.digitalwelly.com/lambriniapp/>



Who will cut the grass?

A new book has been launched by Cancer Focus Northern Ireland to help very young children when their mum, dad or grandparent has cancer.

'Who will cut the grass?' was written by the leading local charity's family service co-ordinator, Rachel Smith, and illustrated by another staff member, art therapist Joanne Boal.

"I meet families every day who are facing very tough and sad times. Cancer is traumatic, not only for the person but for the whole family. Children love stories, so I thought this would be the perfect way to talk to them on their level," Rachel explained.

"The idea for the book came from a little boy whose dad was very sick. When his dad died he asked me 'Who's going to cut the grass?' This story is told by nine-year-old Elliott just as his dad Harvey, a firefighter, is diagnosed with cancer. The story follows him, his sister and brother as Harvey grows sicker and then dies.

"It looks at how cancer affects children when Dad is ill and



Andrew Bond (10), who attends the Cancer Focus N.I. Family Support Service, and Firefighter, Fintan Burns.

how Mum has to learn to do things that he used to do. With its beautiful, touching pictures, 'Who will cut the grass?' deals with some of the difficult questions children may have.

"It's a sad story but I have given a star role to my cat Sharon - a lot of families have a pet and I think they add a few smiles to a very sad situation," she explained.

The books are free to Cancer Focus service users and are also available to others for £3 each from Cancer Focus, 44 Eglantine Avenue, Belfast.

For more information call 028 9066 3281 or email care@cancerfocusni.org or visit www.cancerfocusni.org

Boxing Day at Down Royal in support of the Jonjo Bright Trust



Boxing Day at Down Royal is the other great Christmas tradition and has become a firm favourite for both families and racing enthusiasts alike.

This year Down Royal is proud to be running the Boxing Day Race Meeting in support of the Jonjo Bright Trust. There will be a collection at the turnstiles and a specific hospitality package available for those wishing to support the Trust.

The seven strong racecard provides an opportunity to wrap up warm and beat the 'Boxing Day Blues' with some top

quality National Hunt racing. Our gates open 11am with the first race kicking off at 12.25pm (approx.) and the last at 3.30pm (approx.).

Concession admission is £10 and children under 16 receive free admission. Entrance tickets will always be available at the turnstiles on the day. For further information on the fantastic work done by the Jonjo Bright Trust or to make a donation please go to www.jonjobrighttrust.com

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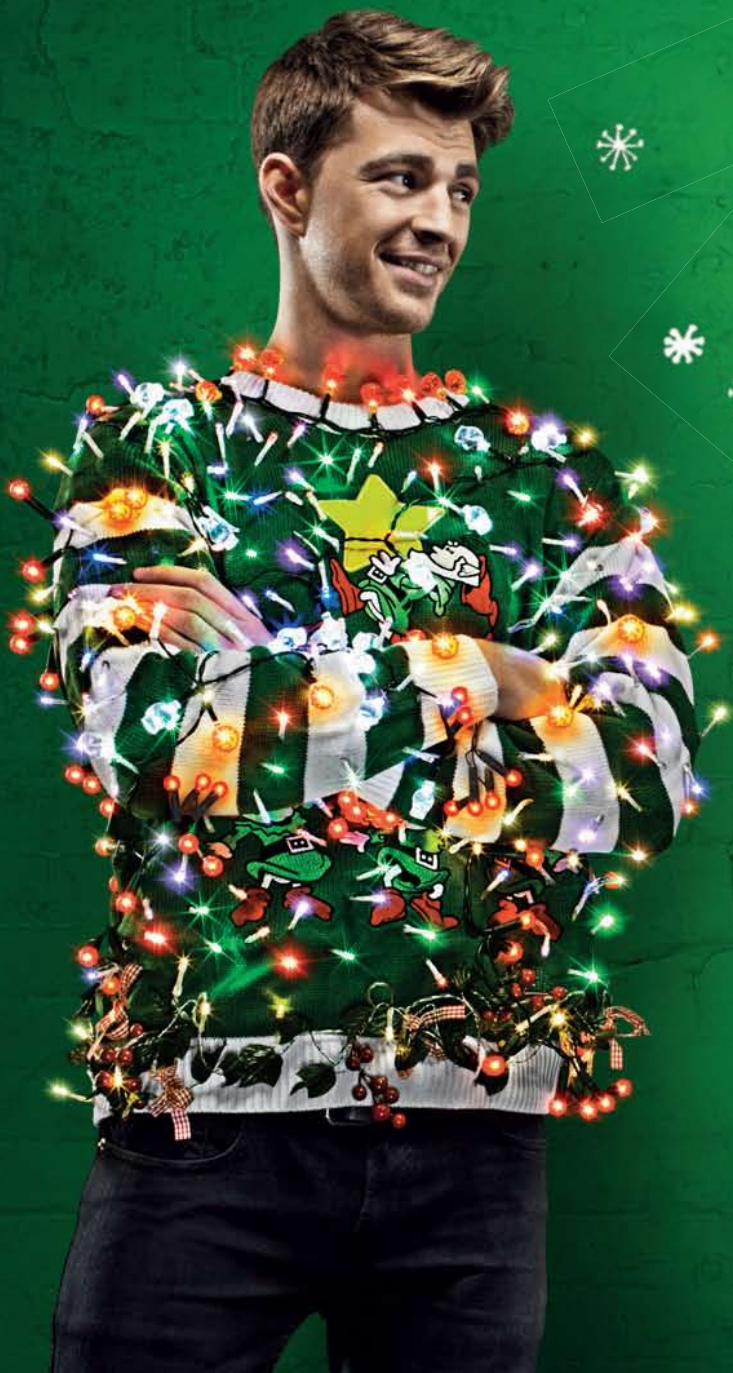
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UGAAWA Monthly Merit Awards

'A Night in November' was an award-winning play by Marie Jones and, surely, a 'weekend in October' was an award winner for Michael Murphy. His exploits at Breffni Park and Ballybofey on October 19-20 will certainly go down in history. It is well documented that Michael captained Ireland to a record slamming of the Aussies in the Rules contest with the first leg in October all but settling the issue. However, he coupled that with more traditional GAA action by steering his club, Glenswilly, to Donegal SFC success next day.

On October 5, 'The Swilly' defeated Ardara by the minimum in the county semi-final and 24 hours after skippering Ireland to first leg success he was again the leader

with his club, netting 1-5, as Glenswilly regained the Donegal honours with victory over Killybegs.

The Donegal star also, of course, played a huge role with Ireland in the second leg of the Rules clash, a week later at Croke Park.

This is Michael Murphy's fourth time to win the Ulster GAA Writers' Monthly Merit Award. He first collected it for April 2011 with further wins in October 2011 and September 2012. He was also Personality of the Year for 2012.

In winning he overcame the challenge of Monaghan's Conor McManus and Cavan's Niall McDermott.



Michael Murphy, Glenswilly, Donegal and Ireland, winner of the Ulster GAA writers Merit award for October.

Pic. courtesy of Oliver McVeigh

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 6x700ml £79.74	 6x700ml £62.46	 6x700ml £62.46	 6x700ml £62.88	 12x700ml £123.72	 12x700ml £119.88	 24x187ml £25.99	 24x187ml £25.99	 24x187ml £25.99	 24x187ml £25.99
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N.I. Football Writers' Awards



Darren Murray receives his award from Paul Lavery, BT Sport (left), and Paul Ferguson, NIFWA Chairman.

Portadown striker Darren Murray has won October's BT Sport Northern Ireland Football Writers' Player of the Month award.

Collecting the Belleek award, Murray said, "October went well for me. I can't complain about eight goals in one month. When you're a striker you always want to score hat-tricks and I managed two. I'd just like to thank the Football Writers and their sponsors for giving me this award."

Murray started October with a bang, scoring in Portadown's

2-2 draw with Warrenpoint Town, before finishing it with a hat-trick at Stangmore Park in the Ports' 5-0 win over Dungannon Swifts.

He also hit a hat-trick against Lisburn Distillery in the League Cup and scored a penalty in a 3-1 defeat to Ards.

A BT Sport spokesperson said, "Darren has been in fantastic goalscoring form for Portadown FC throughout October and he fully deserves his BT Sport Player of the Month award."



Crusaders boss Stephen Baxter has won the BT Sport Northern Ireland Football Writers' Manager of the Month award for October.

venues like Windsor Park and Shamrock Park, so we just want to keep it going and see where it takes us."

Upon collecting the Belleek trophy, Baxter said, "When a manager collects an award it reflects on how well his team have done, and this month we've got our act together. It's been a good run of form for us as we've been to some difficult

Crusaders were unbeaten throughout the month of October, qualifying for the quarter-finals of the League Cup, the final of the County Antrim Shield, whilst also keeping the pressure on league leaders Linfield.



Stephen Baxter receives his award from Paul Lavery, BT Sport, and Paul Ferguson, NIFWA Chairman.

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Celtic win the European Cup



The triumphant 'Lisbon Lions' proudly display their silverware.

Liverpool have won it five times, Manchester United three, and Nottingham Forest twice. The list goes on, but the very first British side to win the European Cup was not English. In fact, Jock Stein's Lisbon Lions were about as Scottish as they come. The entire team hailed either from Glasgow itself or from the communities that surrounded it, no more than 30 miles away from the centre. That gave Celtic a stronger sense of identity than any of the British winners that followed in their footsteps in later years.

They would need all the passion and purpose they could muster against an elegant Inter Milan side that had won the European Cup two years earlier. But Celtic was not short of skill either, and had a ginger-haired winger called Jimmy Johnstone, who could leave the best defenders in his wake. He typified the confidence that flowed through the Scots, even after Inter's early penalty sent the Italians into the half-time break a goal ahead.

Tommy Gemmill blasted a deserved equalizer with the game little more than an hour old, and now the Italians knew that negative tactics were not going to be enough. It was Celtic who poured forward looking for the winner though, and got their reward six minutes from time. Stevie Chalmers turned a Bobby Murdoch drive past Giuliano Sarti in Inter's goal. Billy McNeill lifted the cup and Celtic were the envy of England's finest.

A solo sensation

When Francis Chichester arrived as a national hero in Plymouth on 28 May 1967, it was difficult to believe that nine years earlier he had been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer.



Francis Chichester arrives back in Plymouth.

The 65-year-old had just become the first person to sail single-handedly around the world by the clipper route, the riskiest journey with the most time spent in the perilous Southern Ocean. Just as he had staved off the most lethal form of cancer, he had conquered the seas around Cape Horn. The Devon-born sailor and aviator (he had already tried to fly around the world) had a simple reason for his risky pursuits. 'Because It intensifies life,' he said at the time.

He had left on 27 August the previous year, planning to get to his one stop in Sydney faster than the great Australian wool clippers of the nineteenth century. He succeeded in that goal, and completed the round-the-world journey in just 226 days, arriving home to a 10-gun salute from the Royal Artillery and a crowd of 250,000.

Chichester was knighted in July with a sword that had belonged to Sir Francis Drake, and was honoured by having his image on a postage stamp in 1967. He finally succumbed to lung cancer in 1972.

Also this year...

Cycling - British cyclist, Tom Simpson, died on the slopes of Mont Ventoux, one of the Tour de France's toughest challenges. A post-mortem found he had taken amphetamines and alcohol, ultimately a fatal combination in the hot conditions.

Boxing - Muhammad Ali was stripped of his World Heavyweight Champion titles and banned from boxing for his refusal to be inducted into the United States Army.

Horse Racing - Foinavon wins the Grand National - a 100/1 outsider!

Work Me Lord grabs Gold Cup at Drumbo

Work Me Lord, owned by Tony Howard (Kildare) and trained by John Ginger McGee (Louth), came out as top dog at the Caledonia Smooth Gold Cup Final (November 9th) at Drumbo Park Greyhound Stadium, winning the three-week festival of racing's most sought after £5,000 prize.

The final six dogs were whittled down from those who participated in one of Drumbo Park's biggest race events of the year, with a total prize pot of £10,000.

Second place, and £1,250 went to Atitboy, handled by local trainer Ronnie McKeown (Hillsborough) for Dudley Wilmott (Exeter). Third place, and £750 went to Canvas Drogha, owned and trained by Peter Aiken (Irvine, Scotland).

Sarah Shimmons, Beer Marketing Manager for Tennent's NI, said, "We're delighted once again to be part of such a high calibre competition as the Caledonia Smooth Gold Cup, in conjunction with Drumbo Park. The excitement surrounding this year's Gold Cup has been fantastic and none more so thrilling than at the Final. For our gala final night we benefitted from a particularly fantastic atmosphere in The Grandstand Restaurant where we enjoyed a full house and some added entertainment in between races from our smooth magician. Race-goers really got into the mood, got dressed up and enjoyed a very social and refined evening out with their friends, which is all part of what makes greyhound racing at Drumbo Park with Caledonia Smooth such a fun night out."



(From left) Stephen Daly, David Dowman and trainer John McGee, receiving the Caledonia Smooth Gold Cup from Sarah Shimmons, Beer Marketing Manager, Tennent's NI Ltd, and John Connor, Racing Manager for Drumbo Park; flanked by promotional girls Sarah Jayne MacKenzie (far left) and Laurina Kennedy.



Noel Brown, Tennent's NI; Heather Brown; Wilma Hegarty and Ross Hegarty, Tennent's NI.



Niall Johnston, Laurina Kennedy and Gerry Johnston from Ormeau Golf Club.



Janice and Harold Beckinsale from Club Review.



Sarah Shimmons, Tennent's NI, and Aaron Shimmons.

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