

Club Review

VOLUME 27 - Issue 1, 2014

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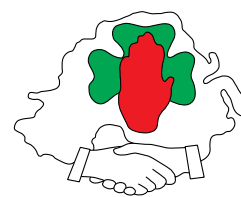
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Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the Crumlin Star Social Club,
on Saturday 11th January 2014



The Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting by inviting the Secretary, Bob McGlone, to read the minutes of the previous executive meeting. These were proposed and seconded by Raymond Connor and Gerry Gallagher.

It was revealed that grants are available which do not require CASC status to be established which requires to channel funding via DECAL.

Details of club advertising in various forms was discussed at length. In particular, use of the internet to promote registered club facilities was discussed in some detail. The Chairman proceeded to read correspondence from our solicitor, Shean Dickson Merrick, on the law pertaining to club advertising. The said correspondence fully explained the detail contained within the 1996 Registration of Clubs (NI Order).

An extensive debate initiated by North West representative Gerry Gallagher highlighted a similar issue in his area. The problems associated with this matter are related to the interpretation or misunderstanding by some, but not all PSNI inspecting officers.

The Chairman continued by covering details of the

Linneweber VAT Appeal which resulted in a number of clubs receiving refunds of VAT. At the time of refunds being made, HMRC highlighted that if their appeal was successful, the said monies would have to be re-paid. However Rank Plc have applied for leave to appeal at the Supreme Court.

The Treasurer, Davy Larmour, presented a detailed financial report which was proposed and seconded by Joe Patterson and Tommy McMinn as a true record.

Gerry Gallagher raised a subject related to a security development for entering nightclubs (not registered clubs) which features finger print recognition. We are of the view that while this may seem good practice to try as far as possible to monitor under aged young people entering licensed premises, it is not necessarily needed in the registered club sector, which historically has not suffered from the levels of anti-social behaviour evident in other parts of the licensed trade.

It was confirmed that the review of the licensing legislation will be reviewed in its entirety rather than individual items.

Checking water safety in respect of legionnaires disease was discussed with the suggestion



(Centre) Kevin McCarthy, Chairman of Crumlin Star Social Club, with Executive Committee members following the January meeting.

that the Department of Health be contacted for further advice.

This concluded matters and the Chairman thanked the management committee of the

Crumlin Star Social Club for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality provided.

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



Congratulations to the Crumlin Star Social Club on a fantastic refurbishment project. As you can see from the above picture, it's a job well done and makes for an excellent facility for the club members.

N.I. Federation of Clubs Annual General Meeting

You are invited to be represented at the Federation AGM being held on Saturday 8th March 2014 commencing at 10.00am in the R.A.O.B Club, 17 Church St, Belfast, County Antrim BT1 1PG.

You are encouraged to make sure your club is represented

Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the West Belfast Social Club,
on Saturday 8th February 2014

The Chairman opened the meeting by inviting the Secretary to read the minutes of the previous meeting. They were proposed and seconded by Tommy McMinin and Raymond Connor.

The Treasurer, Davy Larmour, informed the committee of the new iPhone which features fingerprint technology. It was acknowledged that this is unlikely to be featured in registered clubs but has a use in venues such as the Odyssey Arena which was recently in the news in regard to young people alleged to have been affected by drugs and alcohol.

The Chairman continued to cover details of meetings, such as the invitation from the PSNI to attend a meeting in Downpatrick Cricket Club, where the ability of a registered club to advertise was high on the agenda. The Chairman provided the PSNI with a copy of the correspondence we received from Police Head of Policy and our legal team covering the period 1994 to 2000 which placed a different emphasis on the meeting.

Continuing, the Chairman proceeded to confirm that we had arranged to meet Robin Newton MLA as he is a member of the Policing Board. The said meeting provided the opportunity to discuss our concerns and request assistance in arranging a meeting with the Minister, Nelson McCausland MLA.

The Chairman continued to cover the detail of communications forwarded to Robin Newton MLA and the Minister. As a result, a response was received from the Minister's Office confirming that we will receive notification of a meeting in due course. Brian McCartney suggested that we forward a copy of the correspondence we have to club secretaries. However, the Chairman suggested that we await the anticipated meeting with the Minister as the matter may well be addressed sooner rather than later in the Ministers' Consultation process.

The Treasurer presented a financial report but confirmed that the statement was not due until next week. He did however have detailed information which was provided by the bank specifically for today's meeting.

A lengthy debate took place on our various associated companies who are distributing Diageo and other products. Since introduction, the Federation Chairman has been recommending that clubs open accounts with these companies. Indeed, the Federation are delighted that this has brought us closer to the said suppliers which we feel certain has provided mutual benefits.

A lengthy debate took place on the attitude of others who we feel do not afford appropriate recognition, nor indeed recognise the enormity

of the registered club sector and the major role it plays in the leisure industry, making it more important that we support those who do, equally and fairly.

Details of the Linneweber 2 appeal in which the HMRC were successful was discussed in that the HMRC have the right to have these monies repaid. However it is of some comfort to know that Rank PLC have lodged a further appeal. The PRO confirmed that this will most likely be discussed at the forthcoming CORCA meeting in London at which we will be represented by our Treasurer, Davy Larmour and North West area representative, Gerry Gallagher.

It was suggested by CORCA that we ascertain how much our member clubs had received in repayments from HMRC, however in line with Federation policy we feel this is outside our area of responsibility, as we are committed not to interfere

in the internal affairs of a club unless invited to do so.

Entertainments license requirements were discussed in some detail. Information we have at hand will be modelled for use by our members for their own use and will be made available on the Federation website. This is an ongoing project which seems more complex despite discussions with Council outlining that they wished to reduce administration. Nevertheless, the Federation appreciate that the Fire and Rescue Service are playing a major role in this. Members will of course be kept updated as matters progress.

As this concluded matters the Chairman brought the meeting to a close by thanking West Belfast Social Club for hosting the meeting and for the excellent hospitality provided.

Robert McGlone
Secretary, NIFC

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Advertising still proves problematic

The following details have been available on the Federation website for some years and are supported by correspondence and legal opinion exchanged with our legal representatives and the RUC (now PSNI) Head of Policy at the time.

Text exchanged during the period 1994 - 2000

Confirmation has been received through the Federation's Solicitors, Shean, Dickson, Merrick of High Street, Belfast and from the R.U.C. Head of Policy with regard to the right of Clubs to advertise all types of dancing within private member clubs, as prescribed under the rates amendment act. This is a sensible outcome to what everyone viewed as an outdated part of the Legislation. The fact that dancing is now categorised as a sport, which of course is to be included in the next Olympic Games, has we feel played a significant part in the decision. The following letter is being forwarded to club secretaries.

To All Club Secretaries

Following prolonged discussions, we have at long last resolved the matter of advertising dancing and sports events within private member clubs in Northern Ireland.

Following deliberations, examination of the Legislation and in consideration of the European Human Rights Bill which confirmed our opinion, it was decided to instruct our solicitors, Shean, Dickson, Merrick, to obtain clarification of the legality of the public advertisement of functions in Registered Clubs and, if required, to prepare a test case through the courts.

Following discussions, attended by representatives from the President of the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing, a submission was prepared and forwarded to the

Chief Superintendent of each Police Division in Northern Ireland.

This submission set out our opinion that it would NOT constitute a breach of the Registration of Club (Northern Ireland) order 1996 to issue an advertisement for a function on Club premises involving dancing, including disco dancing, social dancing, jive dancing, line-dancing, etc. We emphasised that such advertisements were intended only for the purposes of keeping club members informed of such functions and were not for the purpose of inviting the public to attend.

In a joint response from RUC Headquarters at Knock, the RUC confirmed that our opinion was correct and that prosecution would not follow the issue of an advertisement for such a function. Accordingly, member clubs are advised that it is lawful to issue an advertisement for a function which involves dancing, sport or physical recreation, or an activity.

Trivial matter continues to pose a problem!

Despite this correspondence being exchanged between the Federation Solicitor, our QC, and the then RUC Head of Policy, going back as far as 1994 the issue surrounding advertising events for the benefit of members and guests continues to create misunderstanding.

The specific guidelines focus on the way an advertisement is structured (see samples provided). It is permitted to promote a sport, physical or leisure activity listed under Northern Ireland's Rating Legislation, which includes dance movement/dancing of all kinds. It is the prescribed activity which must form the main

feature of an advertisement/notice, with all other items such as music/bands etc. being ancillary to that.

Members should be aware that the Consultation on N.Ireland's Licensing Legislation may erase the current problem. Indeed, we are hopeful that recent meetings with the PSNI and MLA's. and a requested meeting with the Minister Nelson McCausland MLA, will resolve a problem which presents issues, not only for registered clubs but also the PSNI, which has to police what is, on the scale of things, a minor issue. We recognise

they are required to address complaints but we nevertheless feel there are more pressing matters they would prefer to attend to.

A recent meeting hosted by the PSNI in Downpatrick provided an excellent forum enabling a range of clubs in the area to pose questions. The meeting was very convivial and helpful, with a suggestion that it be convened on a more regular basis; this was welcomed by Federation Chairman, John Davidson, who was invited to join the PSNI Officers at the top table.



ANY CLUB

Invite you to come along and enjoy
A Fabulous Night of Dancing

to the music of

'The Rhythm Aces'

Refreshments and bar snacks available

Commencing 8.00pm

Member & Guests Welcome

The above sample was accepted as complying with the legislation as it is promoting the dance/physical activity aspect of the evening, whereas the sample below emphasises the music and makes no reference to the prescribed physical activity involved, therefore making it illegal.



ANY CLUB

INVITE YOU TO COME ALONG AND

enjoy the music of

'The Rhythm Aces'

Refreshments and bar snacks available

Commencing 8.00pm

Member & Guests Welcome

'Neknomination' needs to be discouraged

Club are being encouraged to look out for the latest craze to hit drinks outlets across Ireland, Neknomination.

This is being brought to your attention after the untimely death of a young County Carlow man in early February.

'Neknomination', is a so called drinking game in which people are encouraged to drink copious amounts, and various mixtures, of liquids, including alcohol, from one glass before posting a video of themselves online.

It is reported that having taken part in this game, Jonny Byrne jumped into the River Barrow and couldn't be rescued, despite the best efforts of his brother to get him out.

Drinking alcohol can have the effect of increasing ones confidence and can make you more likely to take risks you would normally avoid, it can also reduce your ability to make sound judgements, so that if you have been drinking you are likely to be slower to notice potential dangers. Your motor functions will also be impaired, making you less able to complete physical tasks. This means that attempting stunts when you have been drinking significantly increases the risk of accidents.

Peer pressure can be a very powerful thing, and people can get caught up in it. Social media has increased the effect of peer pressure, and we need to try to harness this in a positive way, using the media to reinforce

messages about the risks of drinking, and how important it is to look after your friends.

Neknomination can be a highly dangerous practice. Real friends don't Neknominate. You have the right to say 'No'. Join the thousands of others who are standing up against this 'game' and stamp it out in your club. Drinking 'games' are not new, but they have the potential to quickly increase consumption of alcohol and this can be highly dangerous.

Alex Bunting from the Forum for Action on Substance Abuse (FASA) said, "We've seen a full 10-glass bottle of Tequila being drank with a pint of milk. We've seen other things - motor oil being added to the

nominations. So I think people have to be very aware that they're very toxic substances, they're not for consumption by humans."

In Northern Ireland, Alliance Youth tweeted, "With the growing popularity of 'neknomination' videos, we urge all young adults to be responsible and safe when drinking alcohol."

It is believed that NekNomination began in Australia, and has spread to the UK and Ireland.

The organisers behind the NI Neknomination Facebook page have been pro-active in trying to slow the craze down and have removed it from general view.

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Holidays and sick leave

Make sure you know the rules

On the run-up to the Christmas holidays we received several queries regarding the carrying over of holidays and sick leave into the new year. Read over the questions below and see how you fare regarding this topic, it may prove to be very enlightening.

There have been many cases in recent years in both the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the UK courts dealing with the interaction of sick leave and holiday leave. Some of these decisions have been at odds with the current statutory position as set out in the Working Time Regulations 1998 (WTR).

Fortunately there are some straightforward answers to the day-to-day questions clubs face in this complex legal area.

Q1 Can staff who become ill on holiday ask for that holiday to be rescheduled?

A) Yes or B) No?

Q2 Can staff accrue holiday while on sick leave?

A) Yes or B) No?

Q3 Can staff take holiday while on long term sick leave?

A) Yes or B) No?

Q4 Can staff on long term sick leave carry unused holiday over to the next holiday year?

A) Yes or B) No?

ANSWERS

Q1 A) Yes. The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has held that staff cannot be forced to take holiday while

they are sick and this includes where they become ill during a holiday. This means that staff who are sick during holiday leave are entitled to ask their club to reschedule that holiday for an alternative date later in the year. In practice this means that the club will pay staff sick pay rather than holiday pay for the period during which they were ill.

Some clubs have raised concerns that staff may abuse this right by claiming they were ill during holiday to get more holiday entitlement. Clubs can take some comfort from the fact that staff will still need to follow normal sickness absence procedures. If staff have not followed such procedures, for example, reporting into their line manager or obtaining medical evidence of their illness, the staff may not qualify for club sick pay.

- The Court of Justice of the European Union consists of two major courts:

The European Court of Justice (created in 1952), the highest court in the EU legal system; The General Court (created in 1988; formerly the Court of First Instance);

Q2 A) Yes. This can seem crazy to some clubs who query why staff should accrue holiday when they are already off work. However, the CJEU has held that sick leave and holiday leave have different functions - one is to recover from illness, and the other is for rest, relaxation and leisure, so those on sick leave should be entitled to accrue holiday.



Q3 A) Yes. Even though sick leave and holiday have different functions the CJEU has held that staff can take holiday during sick leave if they wish. So if a member of staff has exhausted club sick pay, they may submit a request for holiday while they are absent on sick leave and be paid holiday pay in respect of that absence.

Q4 A) Yes. If staff have been unable to take holiday during a holiday year because they have been absent on sick leave, the CJEU has held they must be entitled to carry over that holiday (up to a maximum of four weeks) into the following holiday year. However, if staff return to work before the end of the holiday year, but fail to take their holiday during the remainder of the year when they had an opportunity to do so, they would lose this right to carry-over.

PLEASE NOTE

Club staff on extended sick leave may want to carry forward

holiday from more than one holiday year. This obviously has implications for how much holiday the club has to pay in lieu on termination of their employment. Although there are currently no restrictions in the Working Time Regulations (WTR), some CJEU cases indicate that a club may only have to allow holiday to be carried forward for a limited period of 15 months. The Government has consulted on amendments to the WTR that would limit the amount of holiday that can be carried forward, so the position will hopefully become clearer once the response to that consultation is finally published.

** While every care has been taken in compiling these notes, the NI Federation of Clubs cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. The notes are not intended to be a substitute for specific legal advice for which you should contact your club insurance or legal representative.*

VAT refunds may have to be repaid!

Clubs may have to pay back VAT refunds they have won from the Government after a surprise decision by the Court of Appeal went in favour of the Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

Many clubs received payments from HMRC after an earlier victory in a case brought by Rank Group. The repayments were commonly referred to as Linneweber claims which resulted in HMRC repaying sums of VAT to claimant clubs.

At the same time however, HMRC pointed out in their attached correspondence, that these were protective assessments - meaning they could claim the money back in the event of them having a successful appeal.

Unfortunately, on October 30th 2013, HMRC did in fact win on appeal which requires us to advise clubs to make the best provision their circumstances allow, in the event that repayments may have to be made.

However we are a little relieved that Rank Plc have indicated that they will be appealing to the UK Supreme Court.

That being said, unless the case is again overturned, HMRC will be legally entitled to enforce their protective assessments.

It therefore remains possible that any repaid amounts of VAT, together with interest on these amounts, could be clawed back by HMRC. We

feel it is entirely possible that if this turns out to be the case repayments may be made over a period. There is no time scale known as yet, so hopefully clubs will have made provision for things not going our way. We will of course keep members informed on how things are progressing.

In the meantime any club requiring further guidance are advised to ring the Federation Helplines or our accountant,

Mr Lawrence Shearer, whose contact details can be found in his advertisement on page 3.

For the removal of doubt, Linneweber 1 applies only to Category B4 and lower Category club machines. Category B3A (electronic lottery) machines remain tax-exempt.



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Ulster Sports Club supports Clic Sargent



'Clic Sargent' recently received a donation of £1,000 courtesy of a charity night held at the Ulster Sports Club, Belfast. Supported by local artistes, the club is keen to assist local charities where and when possible. This recent show saw the acclaimed Bernie Tohill perform the hits of Joe Dolan to an enthusiastic audience. Pictured is Chairman, David Wilkinson, and Treasurer, Frank McKee, presenting a cheque for £1,000 to Eimear McCooey of Clic Sargent.

Televised sport increases bar sales

Live sport is a big sales opportunity for clubs.

Sky, who have recently taken over the marketing of the 'Racing UK' and 'At the Races' satellite channels, have informed the Federation that they are willing to speak to any club who feel priced out of installing Sky.

Sky is well known for the quality of its live sports content, and while BT Sport has become available, it cannot be considered as like-for-like.



However, members should be aware that the Premiership has engaged investigating company, 'ID Enquiries', to commence proceedings against clubs and other commercial outlets showing unofficial satellite broadcasts. We have been informed that ID Enquiries are presently active in Northern

116 Barclays Premier League games Live only on **sky SPORTS**

The temptation to install a foreign satellite receiver is understandable, however, it is our wish to establish a Sky tariff which will eliminate that temptation.


Local representative, Sharon Lagan, is more than happy to make presentations at committee meetings to reach a suitable solution.

Understandably, the more clubs that sign-up, the more influence that will have on tariffs.

Ireland and that 100 clubs and other outlets have been reported to date.


As was previously reported in Club Review, it is the Premiership who are engaged in pursuing clubs and other outlets, not BSkyB.

We realise that this has been mooted in the past, but it is incumbent upon us to make members aware of this latest information in respect of possible legal action.




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Staging an AGM

A properly held Annual General Meeting is a good opportunity to involve the members in the management of the club, to explain the work done by the Committee and outline future plans. Many Officers work hard all year but let themselves down by running a poorly planned and thought out AGM.

The purpose of the AGM is to transact certain business: the report on the accounts; acceptance of the account; organise the ballot for officers and committee; and other matters as required by the club's rules.

Planning

- The meeting should be properly convened in accordance with the club's rules. The date and time of the meeting must be placed on the club's notice board and it should request motions be submitted to the Secretary by a certain date.
- The club rules usually provide for a notice period for the AGM, this varies from club to club but is frequently 21 days before the date of the meeting.
- An agenda should be prepared, incorporating any motions, and displayed in accordance with the club rules.

- Where required, ensure accounts are displayed and that sufficient copies are available for the meeting.
- The Chairman is the most important person in the meeting as they ensure it is conducted in accordance with the agenda and club rules. The Chairman should understand their role and be familiar with the agenda; this will help ensure the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.
- Before the AGM starts the Chairman should ensure only members are present and that a count is carried out to determine that the requisite quorum is present.

Conduct of the Meeting

- No business other than that specified on the agenda should be conducted; there is no need for "any other business" to be an agenda item as this should be covered by motions.
- All questions should be directed through the Chairman. Speakers should be called by the Chairman, and to preserve order only one person should speak at a time. The Chairman should insist there is no talking across the floor and speakers cease when requested. Clubs



frequently request that speakers state their name or stand when called. If these procedures are not followed a meeting can quickly degenerate into disarray and chaos.

- The Chairman usually makes a brief statement thanking the staff and Committee, highlighting key points from the accounts and outlining plans for the future.
- Motions must be discussed in accordance with the club rules.

Other matters

- The future of the club and a strong Committee depends on an active membership. To encourage participation in a meeting many clubs give members incentives such as beer tickets. If the club can afford this policy it

certainly encourages higher attendance.

- To further encourage participation, some clubs invite a guest speaker or arrange for a brewery or other supplier promotion on the night. The correct conduct of a meeting is not an easy skill to master. Some issues will always divide the membership and policies that are good for the club may not be for the benefit for the members in the short term, so heated and sometimes irresolvable exchanges are inevitable. Nevertheless a basic knowledge of tried and tested procedures will help ensure that most meetings are conducted in an orderly and effective manner.

For further assistance on this matter please feel free to call the Federation Helplines, we're here to help.

N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

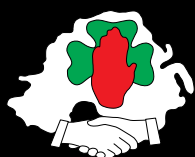
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East Belfast clubs raise money for good causes

Harland & Wolff Welders Chairman, Thomas Flynn, and Dundela Chairman, Jack Majury, are pictured presenting cheques to eight local charities. The cheques were the proceeds of the Annual Charity Day which is run by both clubs during the Christmas period each year. Each charity received £525, a tremendous effort, especially in these tough economic times.



Also in East Belfast, the Harland & Wolff Staff Club presented Heart Beat Trust with a cheque for £1,500. Well done to everyone involved.

Steward admits forgery

We have heard of a case on the mainland, where a steward forged time sheets at his social club so he could pay temporary employees cash in hand. He was only found out because he used the name of someone who no longer worked at the club. At the hearing, the court was told the Steward had complete

responsibility for organising the staff, and the chairman and treasurer had no idea who was due or getting the money.

The Steward admitted forgery but denied pocketing any money and was subsequently given a 12-month community order with 130 hours' unpaid work.

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Questions & Answers

Q. We have had a discussion in the Committee over whether the Committee Minutes should be posted on the Club's Notice Board. I consider that the minutes are confidential since they deal with sensitive subjects such as discussions regarding the Club's employees. What is the current position regarding publication of the Committee Minutes?

A. Committee Meeting Minutes are confidential and should not be displayed in the Club. Additionally, Committee Members should not reveal the contents of them to Members.

As you mention, the Minutes deal with sensitive matters such as employment problems and such information should not be publicly available. It is important to be able to have frank discussions in a Committee Meeting without worrying that the Minutes will then be posted on the Club's Notice Board.

Some Clubs simply produce a short summary of the Committee Meeting, omitting sensitive information and topics, which can be placed on the Club's Notice Board so that Members are aware of the general direction of the

Club and are informed about upcoming events taking place at the Club.

Q. Is the Club required to provide a taxi to take employees who are working late, home?

A. The Club is not required to provide taxi facilities for employees. It may be that the Committee may wish to consider if such a policy would be practical and also engage with the Club's employees on this issue to see if it is desired by some or all of the Club's employees. Perhaps the Club could come to an agreement to share the cost of a taxi if there is an employee who is particularly concerned about getting home after their shift. Please note, however, that there may be tax implications on these contributions.

I think it is fair to say that most Clubs, and indeed other licensed establishments, would probably not automatically provide taxis for employees after their shifts, although invariably there will be local factors (location of the Club, safety of surrounding streets, time at which their shifts finishes) which will influence any such policy.

Q. Can you confirm the holiday requirements for employees who work on bank holidays? We currently pay double time for employees who work on bank holidays and, as such, does this also count as one of their statutory holiday days?

A. Employees are entitled to 5.6 weeks holiday per year. For jobs which are standard Monday-Friday days where the employees do not work bank holidays then this will often become 20 holiday days of the

employee's choosing and the 8 set bank holidays where they do not work but are still paid. If we assume that an employee works on all 8 bank holidays then they would still have the 5.6 weeks of statutory holiday available to them to take. If an employee works on a bank holiday but then takes a day off that week which they would usually work then this will usually be counted as 1 holiday day taken.

It is simply making sure that an employee is able to take 5.6 weeks holiday per year. On a five day a week basis, if they take all 8 bank holidays then they only have 20 days to take. If they work all bank holidays without a replacement day off then they would still have 28 days of holiday to take.

Paying an employee double time on a bank holiday does not mean that it is counted as one of their holiday days.

In light of this information, you may wish to review the Club's pay policy for working bank holidays.

You are not legally required to increase an employee's pay because they work on a bank holiday although you should also be mindful of whether they have a contractual right to increased pay on these days.

For further assistance on this matter we recommend that you contact the Labour Relations

Agency on 028 9032 1442. They will be able to provide you with the latest up-to-date information on this matter.

Q. A Member has asked whether electric cigarettes are legal to be used in the Club. Apparently they have a small cartridge inserted which gives the impression of smoking and are actually being retailed as an aid to give up cigarettes. I am assured there is no nicotine or toxins included in the device.

A. I would suggest that the Committee do not allow such a device to be used. I am not entering into an argument that the device is not a cigarette and is therefore not illegal, my advice is based purely on the fact that the device looks exactly like a cigarette and therefore will either give the wrong impression about the Club and may give rise to complaints being made, or it may indicate to other members or guests that the Club permits smoking and that as a result they light up a real cigarette which could create serious problems for the Club.

Some devices of this nature also emit a smell or odour when used. You may also be interested to know that both several major chains have banned these devices.

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



N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

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E-mail: info@nifederationofclubs.com





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Get a head start with WKD St Patrick's Day support

WKD will once again be helping outlets make the most of St Patrick's Day with a fun promotion offering free 'Shamrock Head' hats to on-trade consumers. The activity is guaranteed to create highly impactful theatre on one of the busiest days in the social calendar, and turn heads in the process.

In typical WKD-style, the promotion offers a 'Free Genuine Irish Shamrock Head (Made in China)' with any two purchases from the WKD range: WKD Blue, WKD Red, WKD Iron Brew, WKD Purple, WKD Orange, WKD Green and new 2014 Limited Edition WKD Brazilian.

Kits containing rate-of-sale driving posters, pre-promotion posters and a supply of WKD Shamrock Head hats are being distributed to WKD stockists across Northern Ireland in preparation for St Patrick's Day, which this year falls on a Monday.

Additional posters in the kits feature a range of WKD cocktail recipes which have been

specially created for St Patrick's Day. The three cocktails – 'WKD 4 Leaf Clover', 'WKD Paddy Pitcher' and 'WKD Lucky Green' – each contain WKD Green with either a spirit or a liqueur and lemonade. When topped up with plenty of ice, these WKD cocktails are great for sharing and the perfect way to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

Debs Carter, Marketing Director for WKD at SHS Drinks, said, "WKD is well-known for its must-have promotional headgear and our WKD 'Shamrock Head' hats will certainly make wearers stand out in a crowd. WKD cocktail pitchers are becoming increasingly popular and this year we're focusing on new WKD Green as the key ingredient for our special Paddy's Day cocktails.

"With St Patrick's Day falling on a Monday, there are opportunities for outlets to start celebrations at the weekend in order to maximise sales uplifts. As the leading RTD in Northern Ireland, WKD has a strong track record in helping stockists maximise



seasonal events, and this year's St Pat's activity will create a real

buzz amongst consumers and generate incremental sales."


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Vina Santa Rita choose UWM for NI distribution



(L-R) Martin McAuley, Managing Director for United Wine Merchants, and Terry Pennington, Commercial Director of Santa Rita Europe Ltd.

A leading South American winegrower has signed an agreement with United Wine Merchants for the exclusive distribution of the award-winning Santa Rita wines in Northern Ireland.

The Santa Rita deal comes as a result of the success of sister brand Doña Paula, which has been distributed by United Wine Merchants in Northern Ireland since 2012. The agreement sees Santa Rita join United Wine Merchants' portfolio of leading wines, beers and spirits.

Martin McAuley, Managing Director for United Wine Merchants said, "Santa Rita is one of South America's leading wines and we're delighted that SREL has chosen United Wine Merchants to distribute the product in Northern Ireland. Santa Rita joins Doña Paula in a rich brand portfolio at United

Wine Merchants and we're looking forward to working with the team at Santa Rita on another leading wine."

Terry Pennington, Commercial Director of Santa Rita Europe Ltd commented, "Santa Rita enjoys a leading position from Chile in both the on and off trade sectors in Northern Ireland and we feel that our partnership with United Wine Merchants will further increase sales of the wine.

"We're confident that our partnership with United Wine Merchants will allow our established customers and new customers alike to gain access to Santa Rita in a way which no other distributor in the market can offer."



Lots of festive cheer at Diageo media party



Pictured with one of the glamorous Harp girls at Diageo N. Ireland's media party are, Brian McCartney, Harry Beckinsale and Davy Larmour. The Christmas event is held each year to thank media and supporters for their ongoing support to Diageo. Angelically themed 'Look on the Harp Side', guests in attendance were treated to an energetic performance by the Belfast Gospel Choir and also a surprise appearance from the Harp Angel himself.

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The 164-year search is finally over...

After 164 years of Alfred Lamb's family searching the Caribbean islands for the perfect blend, Lamb's Spiced is finally here.

A secret recipe of premium Caribbean golden rum, Lamb's Spiced, distributed in Northern Ireland by United Wine Merchants, is a discovery from several generations of the Lamb's family - a smooth golden liquid blended with natural spices, distinctive hints of cinnamon and caramel with a citrus finish.

At 30% ABV and sweetly spiced, Lamb's Spiced is best enjoyed served neat over ice, or this versatile liquid is equally at home as the perfect base for an array of delicious cocktails.

United Wine Merchants Brand Manager Emma Haughian said, "The new rum and hexagonal-shaped bottle is aimed at existing rum fan base as well as attracting new 24-35 year old spiced rum

drinkers to the brand. The smooth and versatile blend makes it perfect as a mixer with Cola and it makes for an exciting base for a range of cocktails."

Discover true spice with Lamb's Spiced - available from United Wine Merchants.

For more information please contact
sales@unitedwines.co.uk or
call 028 3831 6555.



Introducing the new Smirnoff Apple Bite

Smirnoff, the UK's number one vodka from Diageo, has developed an exciting and delicious new drink - Smirnoff Apple Bite!

The innovative Apple Bite is a blend of Smirnoff vodka, lemonade and apple juice and can be enjoyed with any vodka from the Smirnoff portfolio - meaning you really can be creative with your favourite flavours.

The Smirnoff Apple Bite is the perfect drink to enjoy when you're out with friends or a great cocktail to serve up at home.



Win a trip down under with McGuigan's

Award winning wine producer, McGuigan Wines, has continued its partnership with celebrity chef, John Torode, to concoct the ultimate food and wine experience.

Between 27th January and 27th April, McGuigan Wines, distributed in Northern Ireland by United Wine Merchants, will give consumers the chance to win five double return flights to Sydney, Australia and the world-famous Hunter Valley, Australia's oldest winemaking region. The wine loving winners will spend a week experiencing the wonders of Sydney and the Hunter Valley region, exploring picturesque vineyards and visiting the McGuigan cellar door. The trip will end with an exclusive luncheon hosted by John Torode and legendary Australian winemaker, Neil McGuigan.

To enter, customers need to buy a bottle of McGuigan wine and visit a specially designed microsite via: the QR code on the bottle; visiting the competition microsite url: www.mcguiganwinescompetition.com or the McGuigan website www.mcguiganwines.co.uk.

Aside from the main prize, wine lovers will also have the chance to win a six-bottle mixed case of McGuigan wines every day during the promotional period.

Customers can keep an eye out for the promotion in major retailers as well as in independents throughout Northern Ireland. Digital support for the promotion will also be driven through social media platforms to



(L-R) *Legendary Australian winemaker, Neil McGuigan with John Torode.*

further spread awareness and interaction.

Martin McAuley Managing Director at United Wine Merchants, said, "We're thrilled to see McGuigan Wines continue its fantastic relationship with John Torode through this exciting consumer promotion. Both John Torode and Neil McGuigan bring decades of food and wine knowledge to the table, which will ensure consumers experience Australia's Hunter Valley in all its glory.

"McGuigan Wines is investing heavily in this year's promotion to ensure good visibility for the brand throughout the period of the promotion and we hope that consumers will be excited by the great prize that is on offer."

The Hunter Valley is one of the jewels of New South Wales, only a short two-hour drive from Sydney; it is Australia's most visited wine region. With a rich history, the Hunter Valley consistently produces an impressive diversity of varieties and styles, including its famous Semillon and Shiraz.

Cancer Focus service uptake rises by 21%

Leading local cancer charity Cancer Focus Northern Ireland has announced a 21% rise in uptake of its care and cancer prevention services over the last year.

The charity delivers a range of services to support people in Northern Ireland affected by cancer and to help communities take positive steps towards a healthier life to lower their risk of cancer.

Significant areas of growth included counselling (13%), art therapy (17%), Beauty for Life (74%), smoking service (37%), cancer prevention training and awareness sessions for professionals (34%) and health education in schools (17%).

Roisin Foster, Chief Executive for Cancer Focus, said, "There are more than 70,000 people living with cancer in Northern Ireland at the moment. As that number continues to rise, so does the need for support for those affected by the disease.

"This year's increase in uptake demonstrates the demand for the quality services we provide and we are determined, with help from the public, to continue expanding so that we can reach even more of the people who need us.

"As well as providing care, one of our main aims is to raise awareness of a healthy lifestyle and the signs and symptoms of cancer, as prevention and early diagnosis are vital.

"During 2013 we reached a record 50,000 children through our Schools Health Education Package (SHEP) and have extended our stop smoking support service for young

people. We have also improved engagement with the public and trained health professionals on a number of issues including men's health, skin cancer, smoking and workplace health."

New Cancer Focus care services introduced in the last year at hospital bedsides included the Beauty for Life service and art therapy for children. Due to the addition of a new part-time family support officer, the charity's family support service has also been able to expand in the mid-ulster area.

Roisin said, "Another new initiative is the Sing for Life community choir, developed in partnership by Cancer Focus and the Crescent Arts Centre, for anyone affected by cancer. It has proven extremely successful to date, with more than 100 members signed up and a programme of public performances planned.

"We work to offer a wide range of care and cancer prevention services that really meet the needs of our community. We're delighted that more people are using our services and are truly benefitting from them."

Each year Cancer Focus handles around 1,000 calls on its free helpline 0800 783 3339, provides bra fittings for more than 500 women who've had breast cancer, delivers health checks onboard the ManVan to about 2,000 men, and supports over 250 people through our regional patient support groups.

For more information on the services the charity provides visit www.cancerfocusni.org, call 028 9066 3281 or email care@cancerfocusni.org



Cancer Focus mascot Genevieve demonstrates one of the charity's schools health education programmes, Genevieve and the Farmyard Olympics, to Heidi West (5) and Patrick Smith (5). For more information on Cancer Focus' free services call 028 9066 3281 or visit www.cancerfocusni.org

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Trek the Himalayas with Marie Curie

Visit Nepal and experience a trek amongst the world's highest mountains

As we reach the end of another year people tend to set themselves targets for the new year ahead. What better target, than to take on a worldwide challenge, and in doing so, raise much needed funds in the process, quite apart from increasing your fitness and health levels.

Marie Curie always have a range of events on offer and we have listed a few that may raise interest for individuals or groups alike. You can even set up an online fundraising page

and in just a few clicks, you'll be on your way to reaching your sponsorship goal. Your online fundraising page also gives your supporters the opportunity to Gift Aid their donations, which means Marie Curie can claim 25p for every £1 from the Government - at no extra cost to you or your sponsors.

Nepal Challenge
Register for the Nepal Himalaya Trek today and start raising money to support the work of Marie Curie Nurses. This six day trek takes you to the

brehtaking Annapurna region, providing an unforgettable journey through the rolling foothills of a region that offers some of the finest trekking in the whole of Nepal.

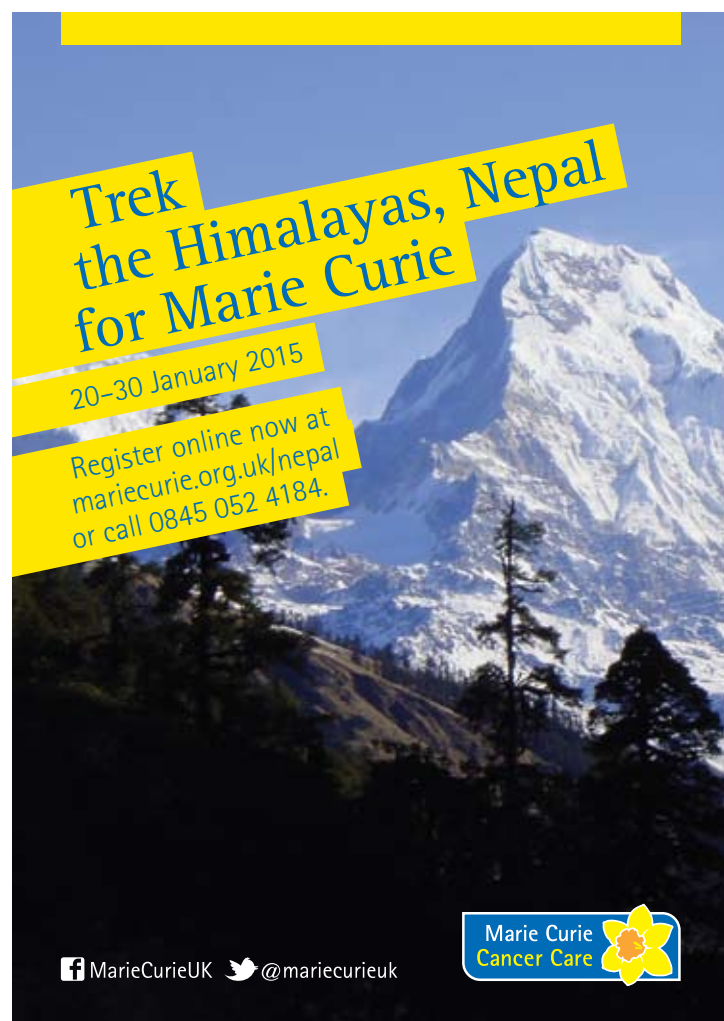
Online registration for the 2015 Nepal Himalaya Trek is now open. You can also contact the Events team by phone.

Malen to Mizen Cycle
Experience the beauty of the Emerald Isle as you cycle from the northern to southern points of Ireland. Enjoy seven days of

cycling, exploring Ireland, quite literally, from top to bottom.

Take part in this cycle challenge and raise money to help us continue providing care and support to terminally ill people and their families in their own homes.

For more information about these and other events:
call 0845 052 4184 or email Lesley Wright, Fundraising Manager, lesley.wright@mariecurie.org.uk
W: www.mariecurie.org.uk



Trek the Himalayas, Nepal for Marie Curie

20-30 January 2015

Register online now at mariecurie.org.uk/nepal or call 0845 052 4184.

Marie Curie Cancer Care

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Trek the Himalayas, Nepal

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- £3,000 minimum sponsorship
- 11-day trip with six days' trekking
- Grading: Challenging

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Register now

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or call us on: 0845 052 4184

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New year, new home, new team sponsor for Belfast Trojans

The Belfast Trojans American Football team has kicked off the New Year with Budweiser coming on board as the new team sponsor and a move to a new home at one of Northern Ireland's premier sports grounds.

The team will make the move from its base at Shorts Sports & Recreation Club where it has been for the last two seasons, to Belfast Harlequins Sports Arena, in time for the start of the 2014 American football season at the end of March.

Looking forward to the move and a great start to the season, Barry Kiel, Chairman of Belfast Trojans, said, "We've had a series of temporary homes since the team was established seven years ago, and we have been very grateful to our hosts, but we are now eager to settle down permanently. We're delighted to be heading for Harlequins which offers us the stability of a large, well run support organisation as well as extensive facilities.

"The new location and the association with the iconic American brand, Budweiser, give us the opportunity to help fans really connect with the sociability of the game. We'll be able to offer food and drink facilities in a great clubhouse overlooking a fabulously maintained pitch – great when the weather is bad! The availability of floodlighting also means that we can play in the evenings and encourage people to see an American Football Game as a great night out as well as a serious sporting challenge."

After two back-to-back seasons undefeated, the Belfast Trojans are clearly taking the game very seriously indeed. The team are reigning Shamrock Bowl champions of the Irish American Football League and last year they also went on to win the Atlantic Cup in the European Federation of American Football's Western European Championships. With a new home and new support behind them, they are facing the 2014 season with confidence and determination.

Sarah Shimmons, Beer Marketing Manager for Tennent's NI, is also looking forward to a move which she believes will ultimately support the growth in popularity of American Football in Northern Ireland. She said, "Budweiser, with its American roots, is delighted to back the Belfast Trojans who, like the brand, really are at the top of their game. We are also really enthused at the team's aspirations to open up the sport to wider audiences."

The announcement from the club was timed to tie in with the mega NFL Super Bowl event (Sunday 2 February).

To celebrate the new associations and mark Super Bowl Sunday, Belfast Trojans organised a mega celebration in Belfast. American football fans met the team and watched the game in real time as the Seattle Seahawks beat the Denver Broncos 43-8. The Super Bowl Party is already a Trojans tradition and is fast becoming the biggest Super Bowl celebration in Ireland.



Pictured marking the launch of the new associations for the Belfast Trojans is Budweiser representative Rod McCrory (front) from Tennent's NI, with Belfast Trojan players (from left) Christophe Perret, Chairman; Barry Kiel, and Mark McGrath, at the team's new home grounds at Belfast Harlequins Sports Arena.



Budweiser winner Michael Morrow (2nd from left) from Lisburn enjoyed the VIP treatment at the Belfast Trojans Super Bowl Party along with (from left) Colin McLearnon, Bud cheerleader Ciara McStravick, James McMullan and Colin Davis.

Queen's GAA Festival set to welcome thousands to Belfast

One of the largest sporting events to take place in Northern Ireland this year has been officially launched at Belfast City Hall.

Queen's GAA Festival, which runs from February 13 to March 22, is set to welcome over 12,000 people to the City, providing a major boost to the local economy, as well as the hospitality and culture sectors.

In addition to the action on the pitch, the festival atmosphere will spread throughout Belfast, with a packed programme of health-related and cross-community events, including music, comedy nights and talks with well-known sports personalities.

The action begins on February 13 -16 with Camogie's Ashbourne Cup, and will continue on February 20 - 22 with Gaelic Football's Irish Daily Mail Sigerson Cup, Hurling's Irish Daily Mail Fitzgibbon Cup on February 27 - March 1, and Ladies Football's O'Connor Cup on March 21 -22.

Queen's is setting a precedent with the creation of the Festival, as no other university or college has ever hosted all four of the major higher education Gaelic Games tournaments in the same year.

The massive undertaking will see over 2,250 players battle it out at Queen's world-class facility at Upper Malone in Belfast. Created as the result of a £13M redevelopment by the University, it allows all matches to be played on the one site.

Speaking at the launch of Queen's GAA Festival, Belfast's Lord Mayor, Councillor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir said, "Queen's University have taken on a tremendous challenge in staging these four prestigious intervarsity competitions. The facilities at their disposal are world class and I am confident both players and spectators alike will be treated to an amazing experience. This festival proves once again that Belfast is one of the leading cities in hosting major sporting competitions."

Sports Minister for Northern Ireland, Carál Ní Chulín added, "I am delighted to be able to welcome everyone to the Queen's GAA Festival. The Festival is a celebration of culture, sport and heritage and offers us the opportunity to showcase Queen's Belfast and its facilities to the wider GAA family. DCAL is one of the principal sponsors of this festival and I believe GAA in Ulster has never been stronger. I would like to congratulate all those involved in the organisation of the festival and wish all the teams and coaching staff every success in the coming competitions."

Also speaking at the launch, Queen's University's acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McElroy said, "Queen's is delighted that its commitment to delivering world-class sporting facilities for its students has helped bring these four high profile sporting events to the University and to Belfast. Over the coming weeks we can look forward to a celebration of sporting excellence and achievement, alongside a packed



Getting ready to welcome both players and supporters to Belfast are (l-r) Queen's University Gaelic footballer Martin McElhinney, Queen's Hurling player Chris McGuiness, Queen's GAA Development Manager and former All-Ireland winner with Armagh, Aidan O'Rourke, Queen's Camogie player Ruby Marie Rice and Queen's Ladies footballer Mairead Cooper.

programme of cross-community sporting, social and family events. I would like to thank all our partners for their valuable support and congratulate our students and staff on organising this unique Festival. Queen's is once again leading the way, and a warm Queen's welcome awaits the thousands of players, mentors and supporters who will be coming to Belfast over the coming weeks for our Festival."

Speaking on behalf of the Queen's teams participating in the event, Martin Lilly, Vice President of SU Clubs and Societies, said, "Queen's students are honoured to be hosting these four prestigious competitions, and to have the support of all our sponsors. Our sporting facilities at Queen's are the envy of universities across the UK and Ireland, and our Festival volunteers and

club members will be proud ambassadors for Belfast as we welcome the many visitors to our City."

Looking forward to the festival, Eimear Callahan, Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Campaigns Marketing Officer said, "The Northern Ireland Tourist Board is delighted to support the Queen's GAA Festival as it makes its debut in Belfast providing a great opportunity to welcome people to Belfast for 4 sporting weekends and to showcase all the attractions, nightlife and shopping that Belfast has to offer".

For further information on Queen's GAA Festival please visit www.gaafestival.com or follow Queen's GAA Festival on Twitter @QUBGAAGAAFestival and Facebook.com/QUBGAAGAAFestival

UGAAWA Monthly Merit Awards

December - Most young players are in a rush to reach senior county level but not Gareth McKindless. He is prepared to sit back and wait. Of course, whenever he gets the call to serve Derry at senior level he will jump at the chance. That call may come sooner rather than later if the form he is currently showing continues.

"It is the aim, naturally, to make the county senior team at some stage," he agrees, "but if I get the call I get it, if not it can't be helped."

Teenage defender McKindless has shone and has earned the Ulster GAA Writers' Merit Award for December, ahead of Derry senior Crissie McCaigue, who was outstanding during the O'Fiaich Cup, and Glen minor, Paul Gunning, who starred with Glen in the Ulster Minor Championship.

January - Adam Traenor is living a fairytale life just now as hard-earned awards are dropping into his lap almost daily. In February, he reached the pinnacle of his sporting career by winning an All-Ireland Intermediate Football Championship medal and soon after collected the Ulster GAA Writers' Merit Award for January.

That honour was, of course, earned before Adam helped his Truagh colleagues to national success. Sterling displays in January shot the 18-year-old Sligo IT student to prominence but he took a little convincing that the news of his award was not a set-up.

"I thought that someone was pulling my leg when I got the

phone call," he says. "I knew of the Ulster GAA Writers, of course, but I wasn't aware of the Monthly Merit Award. It is a massive honour for me to get and, having earned it before the All-Ireland final, makes it even more special."

Traenor plays anywhere around the Truagh attack but regularly at full-forward, although he was at No.10 in the final. During the championship he blasted home a huge 7-15, in six games, with only one point from a free-kick.

"Ironically, I only managed one point in the All-Ireland semi-final, against Geraldine's from Louth, at Crossmaglen," he recalled.

Adam, a Health Science and Physiology student, played with Monaghan minors last year and he has, so far, collected Monaghan League and Championship U18 medals, Monaghan, Ulster and All-Ireland Intermediate trophies, as well as, the UGAAWA Merit Award.

For that he gets an inscribed Belleek Living vase, engraved silver cuff links from Omeath jeweller Garret Mallon, training gear from O'Neill's International Sports, an UGAAWA voucher and two tickets plus overnight accommodation for the 2014 UGAAWA banquet.

He beat off the challenge of his club mate Daniel McKenna, Michael Murphy (Donegal) and Niall Morgan (Tyrone) for the award.

The presentation was made at a function in Quinn's Corner on Monday, February 10.



Gareth McKindless receiving his December Merit Award from UGAAWA Chairman John Martin.
Pic. courtesy of Peadar McMahon



UGAAWA Vice-Chairman JP Graham, presenting the January Merit Award to Adam Traenor.
Pic. Peadar McMahon

N.I. Football Writers' Awards

Coleraine duo complete clean sweep of January awards



Eugene Ferry receives the NIFWA Player of the Month trophy from Maria McMullan, BT Head of Consumer Sales in Northern Ireland, and Paul Ferguson, Chairman of the N.I. Football Writers.

Coleraine made a clean sweep of the January awards when Oran Kearney scooped the Manager of the Month title and Eugene Ferry the Player of the Month award.

Eugene Ferry, the new Bannsiders No. 1, made an instant impression after his move from Derry City, and was key to Coleraine's five-match unbeaten run.

After receiving the player's award from NIFWA Chairman, Paul Ferguson, and BT Sport's Maria McMullan, Ferry said, "I had a few career highs at Derry City, like getting to an FAI Cup final. I played in every round but when it came to the final I was left out. It was as if I wasn't a real part of it on the day so I knew I had to leave to play regular football.

"Until I signed for Coleraine, I don't think I have had a run of games since I played at under-16 level and I am loving every minute of it. I have played every game since I arrived and

kept a few clean sheets which is great and I'm delighted to have helped the team climb the table."

Oran Kearney, having suffered nine consecutive defeats, turned his team's fortunes around with three victories and two draws, including a memorable Irish Cup win over Cliftonville.

Receiving his award, Kearney admitted, "There was a stage when I wondered if I would get the chance to win another one of these awards. The whole of Christmas felt like make or break and it was a really tough time. We kept saying we had to draw the positives from our experience and I know I will be a better manager for it.

"Losing nine league games in a row was devastatingly hard but the attitude of the players was terrific. I've been in changing rooms that would not have survived but not this one. We stuck together, that's the most important thing and now we have momentum."



Oran Kearney receives the NIFWA Manager of the Month trophy from Maria McMullan, BT Head of Consumer Sales in Northern Ireland, and Paul Ferguson, Chairman of the N.I. Football Writers.

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Seven Up For Frankie



Frankie Dettori celebrates his super seven with his famous jump off.

In September 1996 Frankie Dettori sealed his place in the history of racing when he completed the 'magnificent seven' of winning every race on the card at Ascot. The housewife's favourite was beamed live into the homes of millions as the BBC interrupted their Grandstand programme to show coverage of the historic event.

Dettori's affable exterior masks a hard-nosed desire to win that has taken him to the very top of his profession.

As Godolphin's stable jockey, Dettori has had the privilege of riding some of the greatest horses of modern times, including the likes of Montjeu, Sharmadal and Dubawi. Dettori, a committed family man, has battled back; from adversity several times in his career, not least a life-threatening injury sustained in a helicopter crash in 2000 that killed the pilot.

Accused of putting his media commitments before his racing duties, Dettori was stung by the criticism and responded by claiming the Champion Jockey title in 2004 from his great rival Kieren Fallon.

Faldo stuns Norman

Nick Faldo's victory at the 1996 Masters was simply spectacular - not just for his ability to claw back a six-stroke deficit, but also for Greg Norman's horrendous collapse.

The Englishman had begun the day trailing in the wake of the Great White Shark, who was sitting well clear at the top of the leaderboard. However, the six-shot lead Norman had built up over three days was reduced to nothing in the space of just 11 holes. Norman's demise continued, most notably when he hit the water at both the twelfth and sixteenth holes, to card two double bogeys.

In stark contrast, Faldo played very well as the pressure piled upon Norman. Faldo moved into the lead, and when he holed a 20ft putt on the final green, it was enough to cement victory - and one of the most amazing comebacks ever seen. He finished with a round of 12 under par to win by five clear shots and take his sixth major. Norman recorded a nightmare 78 to finish runner-up, the eighth time he had been forced to accept second place in a major.



Norman falls to the ground in disbelief at yet another lost shot.

Faldo's win heralded the glory days of British golf. His victory at Augusta meant that the Brits had won five of the last nine masters.

Johnson does sprint double

Michael Johnson achieved more than many thought humanly possible during his glittering career - even before the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. However, by the conclusion of those games, Johnson had pushed the boundaries of what was considered feasible to a new level.

Although equally dominant over his rivals at 200 metres and 400 metres, it was believed impossible to complete the double due to scheduling complications. If Johnson got a buzz from anything, though, it was from proving people wrong. He claimed the first leg of his outrageous double by the proverbial country mile. Already a two time world 400 metre champion, the man with the famously upright running stance added Olympic gold to his collection, beating Britain's Roger Black by over a second. As impressive as that feat was, however, what followed was so staggering that live viewers doubted it was really happening.

Johnson had already shattered a 200 metres world record that had stood for 17 years when he ran a time of 19.66 seconds at the American trials, but in the Olympic final he ran 19.33 seconds to rip up the history books for a second time in the space of a few months.



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