

Club Review

VOLUME 27 - Issue 8, 2014



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Minutes of the Executive meeting

Hosted by the Cancer Fund for Children at Daisy Lodge, Newcastle, Co. Down, on Tuesday 18th November 2014

The Federation travelled to Newcastle, not only to hold its monthly meeting, but to benefit from a tour of the new state-of-the-art facility established on the site of the original home.

The Chairman opened the meeting followed with the Secretary reading the minutes of the previous meeting. These were passed as a true record by Raymond Conor and Jim Hannah.

North West representative, Gerry Gallagher, tabled a question on club insurance which is affecting one of the clubs in his area. It was highlighted that clubs tempted by a lower premium may discover that the cover they require may not be in place.

This revelation underlines the importance of the policy the Federation have secured through Rollins Insurance which does provide the required cover. The long established association with Rollins Insurance provides confidence in that, over the years, the I's have been dotted and the T's crossed. It is also important to be aware that the Federation can intercede should a problem arise.

The Chairman provided an overview of the number of calls/enquiries received since the previous executive meeting, continuing to cover some of the said issues. It is evident that the helpline facility is a tremendous

facility for member clubs, an increasing number of which are now contactable by email.

Continuing, the Chairman provided an update on the entertainments license consultation process, explaining that reducing administration is high on the agenda. Another matter under consideration is taking away the newspaper advertising requirement.

At this stage the Treasurer, Davy Larmour, provided a comprehensive financial report. With the list of clubs now having been obtained through the N.I. Court Service, work will now progress to update the club database which will be of great assistance in the renewal of membership in 2015.

The next meeting of the Federation will take place on Saturday 13th December which will allow us to enjoy a little festive cheer.

The meeting concluded at this point and allowed time for us to be taken on a guided tour of the new Cancer Fund for Children facility.



The Federation Executive Committee present a cheque for £500 to Cancer Fund for Children representative, Ana Wilkinson.

Explanations alone could not have fully provided an insight of the outstanding facilities now available to families with children suffering from cancer.

Situated at the foot of the beautiful Mourne Mountains, the location could not be better. Breathtaking views provide the backdrop, as does the Narnia Log Cabin.

Rory McIlroy opened the facility recently and he has been very supportive of the charity over quite some time. It is obvious that he has taken the charity very much to his heart.

We have gained a lot from our visit to Daisy Lodge and hope that clubs will continue to provide support where and when possible.

The Cancer Fund for Children's journey has been a long one, from its beginnings to its present day position as a leading children's cancer charity, which unbelievably receives very little government funding, depending on the generosity of the local business community, public donations and of course fundraisers and others, including the club sector.

The visit to Daisy Lodge was complete when we were generously provided with lunch following which the Federation Chairman and Executive Committee presented a cheque for £500 to Cancer Fund representative Ana Wilkinson.

Bob McGlone
Secretary

Growing optimism, but still difficulties ahead



John Davidson,
Chairman, NIFC



Bob McGlone
Secretary, NIFC

We enter 2015 with rather more optimism than that of previous years.

We feel that local government are aware of the need to assist the club sector as a major player within the leisure industry. When in office Minister McCausland thankfully recognised the need to reconsider important aspects of the licensing legislation; which if approved, will be of immense help.

Thankfully some issues have passed the committee stage at the Legislative Assembly which will hopefully proceed through the Assembly early in 2015.

We took the initiative to enter into talks with Belfast City

Council in a search to provide a more streamlined and workable entertainments license procedure. On reflection, it would seem evident that Council officials were of a like mind, having acknowledged the need to update matters.

We now form part of the consultation process, initiated by the Minister of the Environment, Mark Durkan MLA, SDLP, to examine the means by which to reduce the difficulties, whilst retaining the important detail related to public safety etc. We are very keen to see a more streamlined procedure in place, sooner rather than later, while nevertheless retaining the effectiveness of the license in respect to public safety and,

of course, the safety of our members and their guests.

A series of meetings with the Federation's associated 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 in recognition of their support of the sector..

Throughout 2014 a number of clubs reduced not only opening hours but staffing levels. While some members may have expressed concern, it should be recognised that such developments are carried out to secure the future of the club. Indeed one could not fail to notice how economic trends similarly affected the pub

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trade throughout the UK and Ireland.

Advertising continues to raise its head and is one piece of the Clubs Order we will hopefully see the back of shortly. This piece of nonsense legislation sees the PSNI acting, in the main, upon receipt of a complaint. Clubs are of course permitted to advertise, albeit in a certain way, which is nothing more than a technicality.

In summing up, we take this opportunity to thank fellow officers and members of the Executive Committee for their continued commitment throughout the year in servicing their areas of responsibility.

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.

Member clubs can be assured that, as in previous years, we will not become complacent but will 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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As 2014 ends, so a new brand is born.

Recognising the importance of the internet, the Computer Accounting Bureau has embraced change in launching a re-brand under 'stocktaking.com'.

Martin Dinsmore feels the new brand name fully outlines the company's services commenting, "We do what it says on the tin. Clients can feel reassured that nothing else has changed; we have not been taken over, and there are no new partners. Our new website is currently in the final stages of construction and will be launched in December."



Martin Dinsmore,
stocktaking.com

Martin wishes to take this opportunity to thank all of his clients for their business throughout 2014, and wishes everyone a very merry Christmas and prosperous 2015.

Household incomes rise

The typical household in Northern Ireland saw its income rise by 3% last year according to research by the Department for Social Development (DSD).

This is the first rise since 2009 as recorded by the Households Below Average Income report.

The research shows that, after housing costs, the typical household has income of £358 per week.

DSD are carrying out further analysis to suggest explanations for the big variation.

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Watch out for 'number spoofing' scam

Criminals are using a new scam to make the people they are phoning believe they are speaking to a trusted organisation - like a bank - by fooling their phones into displaying any number the fraudster chooses.

The scam, known as 'number spoofing', works by fraudsters cloning the telephone number of the organisation they want to impersonate and then making it appear on the victim's caller ID display when they telephone them.

The criminal will then gain the person's trust by drawing their attention to the number, claiming that this is proof of their identity, before trying to defraud them.

This scam comes as a new variation on a type of telephone fraud, where fraudsters call people and pose as bank staff, police officers or other trusted organisations to persuade their victim to part with financial and personal details - often on the pretence that fraud has been detected on their account.

Once criminals have their victim's confidence they will try to extract information such as the victim's PIN, online passwords or other sensitive information which will then be used to steal from their bank account. Alternatively, some criminals will trick victims into sending money to other accounts or to hand over cash or cards to a courier for 'safe-keeping'.

Financial Fraud Action UK's (FFA UK) intelligence unit - the Financial Fraud Bureau - has reported that the scam has become increasingly common in recent weeks. Whilst the technology needed to spoof someone's number has existed for years, only recently have criminals begun using it to defraud people.

The advice to beat the scam is simple - never assume that someone is who they say they are just because their number matches that of an organisation you know. In fact, if someone tries to draw your attention to the number on your caller ID display, you should immediately become suspicious. Similarly, you should be suspicious if you're asked for your four

digit PIN, your full online banking passwords, to transfer or withdraw money, or to give your card to a courier. Your bank or the police will never ask you to do any of these things.

Commenting, Craig Jones, spokesperson for FFA UK said, "Number spoofing is becoming increasingly common and it's not difficult for the criminals to fake a caller ID. So if a number appears on your phone's caller ID display, you shouldn't assume you know where the call is being made from. Remember that if a caller is trying to draw your attention to the number on your phone display, it's very unlikely the call is genuine as there is no legitimate reason to point it out."

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Sex discrimination can cost your club dear

We often receive calls from clubs about gender reassignment and related issues. This article goes some way to describing the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and some lesser known types of sexual discrimination.

Sexual discrimination occurs when someone is unfairly disadvantaged for reasons related to their gender or sexuality. This discrimination is not only unfair on individuals it can result in clubs having significant legal costs, compensation and settlements paid to avoid defending discrimination claims. It also means the club can suffer by overlooking the skills of women and people who are lesbian, gay or transgender.

The Equality Act 2010 lists different forms of discrimination and a number of "protected characteristics." These include: gender, sexual orientation and gender reassignment (as well as race, religion or lack of it, age and being pregnant).

Direct discrimination applies to all protected characteristics. It is treating someone less favourably than another person because of a protected characteristic. For example, promoting a man rather than a woman because of their gender.

Indirect discrimination occurs when a provision or criterion is applied to all and:

- It places a group with protected characteristic at a disadvantage when compared to another group
- An individual is put at a disadvantage
- The club cannot show it to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim

Associative discrimination is treating someone less favourably because they associate with an individual who has a protected characteristic.

For example, someone is treated unfairly because their son or daughter has undergone gender reassignment.

Perceptive discrimination is treating someone less favourably because it is perceived that they have a protected characteristic, whether or not they do. For example, treating someone less favourably because it is perceived that they are homosexual when they are not. Victimisation is when someone is treated less favourably because they have made or supported a complaint or raised a grievance under the Equality Act 2010. It also applies if it is thought that they have made a complaint. Post employment victimisation can also occur.

Harassment is defined as: "unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual".

There is no longer legislation making clubs liable for third party harassment, such as when a visiting workman or delivery person makes disparaging remarks. This express protection was removed last year but clubs should continue to protect staff from this sort of harassment.

Occupational Requirement is where it is necessary to employ a person with a particular protected characteristic. Very



limited exceptions from the law are permitted - for example, certain hospital or prison work providing special care for one sex. Clubs would need to show that there is a genuine need for this.

Positive action clubs can take positive action by, for example, addressing under-representation or other forms of disadvantage in the club. The provisions are complex and need to be handled carefully.

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The importance of dealing with reputable gaming machine suppliers

The majority of clubs have at least one gaming machine. Gaming machines provide valuable revenue for clubs and it is therefore important that the club's machines are appealing to players and that they keep up with trends and technology.

It follows therefore that the gaming machines supplier is able to keep the machines properly serviced and updated.

Naturally all suppliers are keen to win a club's business but it is important to be careful before entering into a contract with an unknown supplier, particularly if the offers made, seem too good to be true.

The following points are an amalgamation of the common problems that clubs have experienced with some gaming machine suppliers.

- A mailshot or unsolicited e-mail is sent to the club offering for example; "6 months free rent", "Free pool table with every gaming machine supplied" or "To supply the same machines you currently have for £15 per week". The club thinks this is a good opportunity to save money and invites the supplier in.
- The supplier installs their machines, which are not the same machines that

were promised, and the new supplier states that he doesn't have those in stock at the moment but these are just as good.

- The machines will invariably be old, worn out and unreliable and the complaints from players will begin; "Machine not paid out", "Machine won't accept my coins", "Machine note acceptor not working", "Hold buttons are sticking" or "Why has it only got a £70 jackpot?".
- The machines will be out of order awaiting an engineer and during this time the club will not be earning any money from them.
- When it comes to cashing up and looking at the profit the machines have made in the period, the costs may have been slightly reduced but the income will have reduced by a far greater amount. The net effect is that the club will have made less profit than if they had kept the higher costing machines.
- The club will complain to the new supplier that the machines are not good enough, a promise of new machines will be made and weeks later the club will still be waiting for them. During all that time they will be losing money and alienating their members who want to play on a good machine.
- Eventually the club will return to their original reputable supplier but it will have cost them money.

Unfortunately the NIFC has even heard of cases of machine suppliers carrying out cash collections to "save the Committee having to do them" without any Officers being present to oversee the collections.

The NIFC strongly recommends that there are always at least two committee members or employees present when the machines are emptied and that full meter readings are taken and reconciled to the cash in the machine. Whenever a machine supplier's engineers are servicing a machine they should be supervised, if possible, by a committee member or employee.

The NIFC only approves suppliers who have a proven record of good service to NIFC Member Clubs and will actively intervene with these suppliers on behalf of clubs if any problem arises.

We therefore recommend that clubs use only the Federation approved suppliers of gaming and amusement equipment:-

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Dealing with pension auto enrolment

To encourage more people to set aside money for retirement, the Government is introducing automatic workplace pensions for eligible workers. Under rules introduced in October 2012, employers are required to automatically enrol all eligible staff into a workplace pension scheme and pay a minimum contribution into the pension fund. For the majority of clubs the requirement to implement these new pension requirements will fall between June 2015 and July 2017.

Clubs will need to establish their specific start dates; this information can be obtained from the website of the Pension Regulator. The club will then need to assess which employees will be affected by the changes,

check the club's payroll software and choose a pension provider. Once the club has chosen its pension provider it will be important to communicate with eligible employees regarding the pension changes, then register with the regulator and finally enrol the eligible employees.

The changes will likely have financial implications and clubs should plan for the additional cost of contributions and administration.

The regulations require clubs to sort your employees into the following groups:

- Eligible jobholders - aged 22 to state pension age and earning over £10,000.
- Non-eligible jobholders - 16 to 21 and from state pension age

to 74 earning above £10,000. Or 16 to 74 earning above £5,772 up to £10,000.

- Entitled workers - Aged 16 to 74 earning below £5,772.

Eligible jobholders must be automatically enrolled; non-eligible jobholders do not have to be automatically enrolled but have the option of opting in; entitled workers do not have to be automatically enrolled but they must be able to elect to opt in although no employer contributions will need to be made.

Clubs will have to ensure that their existing payroll software can accommodate auto enrolment. The HMRC free PAYE software is unlikely to be able to perform any auto enrolment functions at all, other than handling deductions through the payroll, so clubs may need to move to a commercial system before their implementation date.

Employers are required by law to write to all workers (except those under 16 and over 75) explaining what auto enrolment into a workplace pension scheme means for them.

Employee contributions are payable between the lower threshold of £5,772 and the higher threshold of £41,865; these rates will be increased over time.

Employers cannot avoid their obligation to auto enrol eligible jobholders into a qualifying scheme, but employees will be able to opt out after being enrolled. Opting out can only occur after an employer has selected a pension scheme and the first months contributions have been made. If an employee

then wishes to opt out they must notify the club using a document called an 'opt-out notice'.

Employers cannot use their own opt-out notices as they can only be obtained by pension providers or their agents. Any opt-out notices received must be kept until a re-enrolment event, which usually occurs every three years.

Clubs will be able to postpone opting in an employee for a period of up to three months. It is envisaged that postponement will be used:-

- For temporary staff
- For new joiners to reduce payroll and communication administration.
- Clubs can also postpone from the commencement date, however, it does not change the Club's commencement date. Clubs must write to tell the staff whose automatic enrolment you are postponing, you will have six weeks from the date postponement starts to write to them.

The Pension Regulator holds the position of the regulator of work-based pension schemes in the UK and is responsible for monitoring the introduction of auto enrolment. To date their role has largely been one of educating and training. They can issue penalty notices to punish persistent and deliberate non-compliance. Employers who deliberately and wilfully fail to comply with their duties may be prosecuted. All employers will need to confirm compliance with the regulations with the Pension Regulator five months after their staging date.

This article provides only a brief introduction to auto-enrolment. For further information go to www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk



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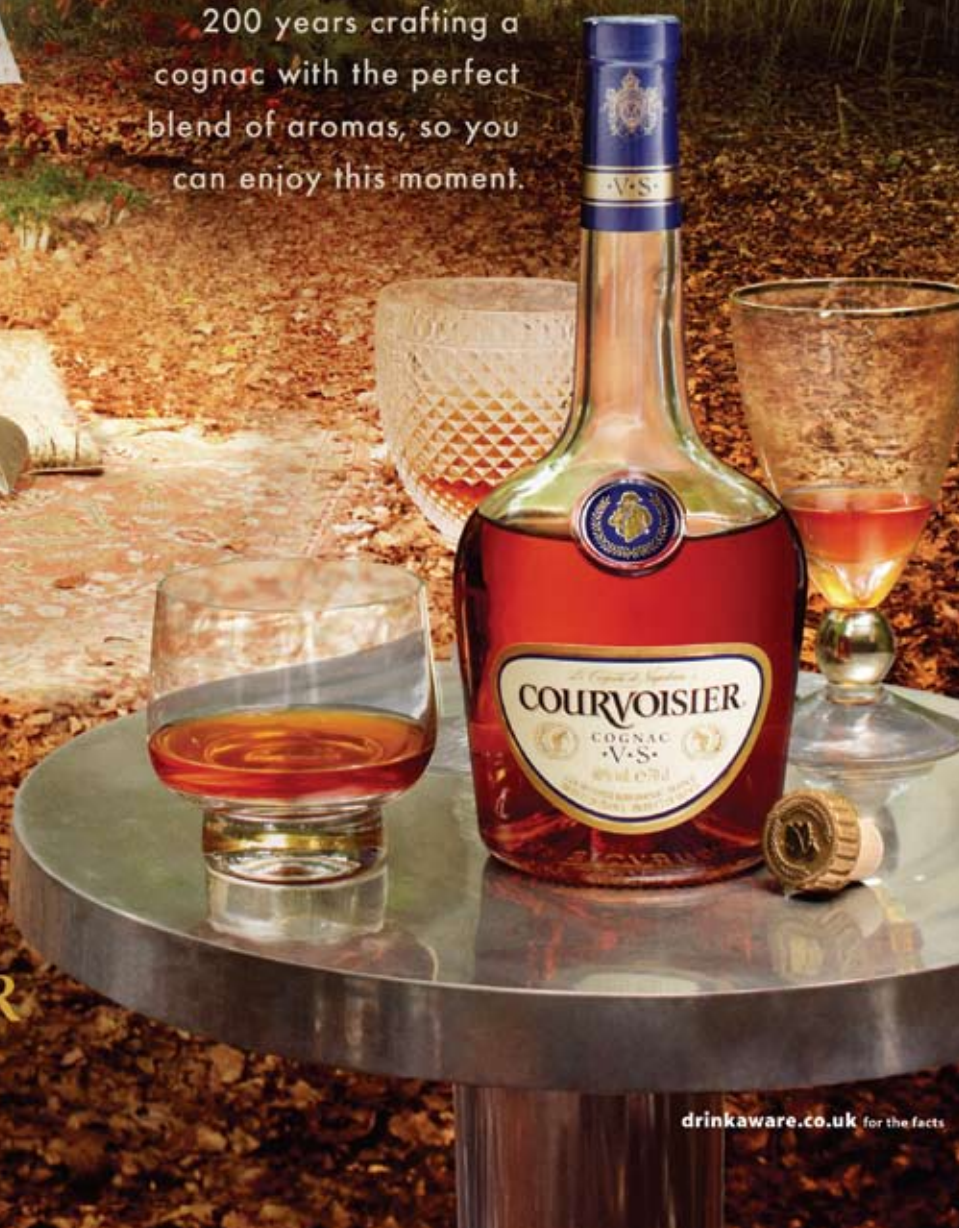
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Money security advice

To minimise the risk of theft, there is some straightforward and simple advice that clubs should try to follow. The most effective course of action is, of course, to minimise the amount of cash you keep on the premises. Make frequent pick-ups of money from tills and make regular bank deposits - employees in charge of making bank deposits should always be alert for strangers lingering at the bank.

If you're in any doubt, do not make the deposit while a suspicious person is in the area. Ensure that any money in transit to the bank or elsewhere is accompanied by the relevant number of able-bodied persons as required by the club's insurance policy.

Ensure that a good quality safe is installed and that it is fireproof, securely anchored and kept in plain view. The combination should be changed when an employee who has had access leaves and it is good practice to vary the combination periodically in any event. The keys to the safe should be removed from the premises outside of business hours or placed within a locked safe or strong room - the keys to which

are themselves removed from the business premises. Access to the safe should be restricted to as few persons as possible.

The club should have a clear policy regarding cashing up and any discrepancies must be investigated. Employees responsible for cashing up should indicate how much has been taken from the tills to the safe and should sign to confirm this. If there are any doubts or concerns regarding money going missing then each time money is transferred to the club's safe it should be placed into a new security envelope and the envelope then sealed. Written on the envelope should be the amount of money inside and the signature of the person who placed the money into the envelope. If a monetary or stock loss is occurring, it is important to have mechanisms in place to identify when and where the loss has occurred. To assist this procedure, regular stocktakes should take place and random one-off stocktakes should occasionally be implemented.

If the club is responsible for emptying the club's gaming machines then at least two persons should be present during this procedure.



The best way to reduce theft is to have proper procedures in place which will prevent the temptation of any person to

steal from the club. Opportunity is the primary reason why a theft may occur.

'Reduce opportunity to reduce theft'

Loud music costs club

The Committee of a club in England have put their hands in their own pockets after the club was left to pay nearly £27,000 because people living in new flats complained about the noise of a charity concert.

problems when the flats were planned three years ago. Dan commented, "We were placated by the developer, who said they had carried out a sound survey and there would be no problem but clearly they were wrong."

York Post Office Employees Social Club was taken to court and ordered to pay fines and costs of nearly £5,000 and to carry out £22,000 of soundproofing work. The work has been done after members of the committee stepped forward and lent the club the money

After warnings from York City Council and some advice which Dan describes as, "less than helpful", the club was taken to court after complaints during a Help for Heroes concert.

Club Secretary Dan Seymour is delighted by the actions of the committee but outraged because the club foresaw the

Although the club had been playing music for 70 years before the flats were built the club had to admit breaching a noise abatement order and was fined £3,750 with more than £1,000 surcharge and costs.

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Questions & Answers

Q. We have had difficulty finding willing volunteers to take on the vacant roles of Secretary and Treasurer. If we cannot find volunteers to take on these positions, what action can we take?

A. It would clearly be preferable if there were willing Members to take on the positions of

Secretary and Treasurer. Without willing Members to take on these roles then the only remaining options are to either spread the responsibilities out to the remaining Officers and Committee Members or to employ a person to fulfil these roles in an administration role. I understand that both of these options are undesirable in terms of the increased work load for the remaining Committee Members and the cost implication of creating an employed position. Should either of these options be undertaken it is likely that a revision of the Club's Rules would be required to reflect the changed operating structure of the Club.

The day to day business of the Club still has to be undertaken and as such one of the above

options needs to be adopted if willing Members cannot be found for these important roles. It is a concern that Members are unwilling to volunteer for these positions. The Members may need to be reminded that the Club relies on volunteers to function and that it is a legal requirement to have a properly elected Committee running the Club. Hopefully this will focus the minds of the Members and suitable volunteers will be found.

Q. Can you clarify who should be the Steward's line manager? Historically our Club's Secretary has directly dealt with the Steward and has relayed the view of the committee. A question has been raised if another member of the committee can liaise with the Steward and provide instructions to him? The Steward maintains that he will only answer to the Club's Secretary.

A. The committee of each club should decide who will be the Steward's 'line manager'. Ideally, the chosen person, or persons, should be regularly within the club so that employees can approach them to ask questions and raise issues.

Theoretically, the entire committee could be given responsibility for the day to day management of employees but this would likely create logistical problems and lead to poor overall management of the employees.

It is important to provide a consistent approach to dealing with employees and therefore one person or a small sub-section of the committee should be appointed with the responsibility of managing the club's employees on a day to day basis.

The long term decisions will, of course, still remain the purview of the entire committee but

frequently situations will arise between committee meetings which can be properly and promptly resolved if the committee delegates a person to act on their behalf between meetings. There is no point having to wait until the next committee meeting to be able to make a simple employee decision which is why it is important for the committee to delegate the responsibility of managing the club's employees to a small number of people. Any issues which arise between meetings can then be reported to the committee at the next meeting along with the action taken.

The Steward is clearly under the impression that the committee have instructed him to be answerable to the Secretary on a day to day basis which is a perfectly acceptable approach for a club to take. I suggest that this issue is raised at a future committee meeting so that it can be clarified which committee members are to be responsible for managing the club's employees between committee meetings. If the committee decide that others, in addition to the Secretary, are to have some responsibility for managing the club's employees directly, then it is advisable to communicate this change of policy to the Steward. If the committee has previously decided that the Steward is answerable to other committee members, in addition to the Secretary, then clearly this will have to be clarified with the Steward also.

If you have a question you would like answered send it to:
Club Review
c/o N.I. Federation of Clubs,
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Clubs can reap the benefits of live sport this winter

sky SPORTS

This winter, Sky offers a broad range of sport to help drive footfall and increase the amount of time that members spend in your club, helping to drive additional food and beverage sales. For many clubs, football is a key footfall driver for their business, but there are also plenty of other sports on offer, which can help to encourage customers to visit more frequently and stay longer.

Sky brings clubs the sports that matter, including 16 Premier League matches this month, with mouth-watering clashes like Manchester United v Liverpool and Arsenal v Liverpool, plus all 14 days of the World Darts Championship, European Challenge Cup rugby, World Challenge golf and international cricket.

Plus, as part of the subscription package for clubs, Sky offers business-building support tools through its Go Further range:

- **Sky WiFi** – keeping customers connected.
- **Sky HD** – bringing customers closer to the action.
- **Additional viewing cards** – show more than one sport at the same time.
- **Online training** – providing ideas about making the most of sport.
- **Sky Sports monthly fixture magazine** (Preview magazine) – helping managers to plan ahead.
- **Sky Sports PreviewLIVE** – providing the latest fixtures and POS.
- **Sky Sports Pub Finder** – advertising your club nationwide.

World Darts Championships

The biggest prize in darts and the most prestigious event on

the PDC calendar, the World Championship kicks off at on 18 December at the Alexandra Palace, London. Renowned as being a fantastic Christmas Party event, the darts represents a great way to generate a fun, festive atmosphere in a venue. And with coverage running during the day, as well as in the evenings, this is a fantastic way to drive trade during the daytime.

This Christmas, for the very first time, Sky Sports will dedicate an entire channel to darts. 'Sky Sports Darts' launches on 18 December and offer clubs over 370 hours of programming, including live coverage of the Championship, plus a host of programmes and features including fascinating documentary with reigning champion Michael van Gerwen.

Phil Taylor, darts' all-time most successful player, is preparing to take on defending champion van Gerwen once again as he goes for an amazing 17th World Championship title. Taylor revealed, "I obviously find it harder as I'm getting older but I love the challenge! I want to win every tournament I play in. I'd love to win the World Championship one more time, and get back to being world number one again. Michael [van Gerwen] has done brilliantly and deserves his success, but it would be great to prove to myself that I can get back there just once more."

Clubs with a second viewing card can show the tournament alongside other big events, such as international rugby and football, and the darts coverage is also a great way to help keep customers in after a Barclays Premier League match.



Michael van Gerwen and Adrian Lewis.

Kilbeggan

The best kept secret in whiskey

Kilbeggan is a unique Irish Whiskey and like most Irish people, it's easy going and approachable, but with its own distinctive style. That's because it's been carefully crafted from the finest grain and malt whiskeys, double distilled and matured in 250-year old warehouses.

Kilbeggan has a consistent flavour, from the first sip all the way to its clean finish. This is what makes Kilbeggan the perfect sipping whiskey, the ideal base for long drinks and cocktails or the key ingredient in an Irish coffee.

James E. McCabe Limited want to let everyone in on the best-kept secret in whiskey and will be encouraging customers this winter to offer a Kilbeggan Irish Coffee on their menus, as well as driving a consumer trial with

in-outlet support, glassware and POS.

Speak to your McCabes representative for more information on Kilbeggan or visit jemccabe.com



THERE'S JOY IN THE BLEND



**ACHIEVE GLITTERING SALES THIS WINTER WITH
J20 GLITTER BERRY**

J20 is a registered trademark of Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd.

Tag along with WKD this Christmas

WKD will be encouraging consumers to participate in two innovative Christmas campaigns this December. They will be harnessing the power of social media to engage consumers in one campaign, and delivering an activity which will literally light up the streets in the other.

WKD will be telling its online followers not to buy presents for their friends this Christmas, but to win gifts for them instead. Under the Gift Tag A Mate theme, WKD will be offering the easiest Christmas shopping ever: all participants have to do is 'tag' a mate who they think deserves a mystery WKD present and lucky winners will receive a surprise gift.

Simply 'tagging' a friend in an online post (*writing the name of an individual so that they get a notification on social media*) could mean that person winning a mystery present. The WKD twist being that the gifts will sometimes be great and other times be a big bag of Brussels sprouts!

WKD consumers are frequent social media users and the tongue-in-cheek campaign is set to generate streams of online festive banter.



While the WKD 'Gift Tag A Mate' activity is all about landing a present for someone else, consumers can win prizes for themselves in the brand's other Christmas campaign. On Saturday nights throughout December, in key cities across the whole of the UK, high-profile WKD projections will appear in prime locations near the hub of the local nightlife. The projections will instruct consumers to "Tweet a pic of this sign" for #WKDSurprises.

The branded projections will make a visual impact and create a real street-level talk-about factor during the key December trading period. Selected lucky winners will receive mystery prizes from SHS Drinks, owner of WKD.

Debs Carter, Marketing Director - Alcohol at SHS Drinks, said, "WKD is all about having fun with friends and our two interactive Christmas campaigns will generate chat amongst mates, both online and on nights out."

Who wants a letter from Santa?

Action
cancer
Saving Lives Supporting People



Bring a smile to the little ones in your life and surprise them with a magical Santa letter and support local charity Action Cancer at the same time. Matilda Gibson helped launch the campaign when Father Christmas arrived with her letter.

Personalised letters are available to order from Action Cancer, all they ask is for a kind donation of £5. Order online from www.actioncancer.org, call 028 9080 3344 or call into your local Gordons Chemist, Menarys, or Tempest store, and pick up a booking form for postal return.

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Divis View is top dog in Caledonia Smooth Gold Cup

Divis View earned a £5,000 prize for owner Dessie Gilroy from Andersonstown and trainer Michael Taggart from Banbridge last month as winner of the Caledonia Smooth Gold Cup Final at Drumbo Park Greyhound Stadium.

Second place, and £1,250 went to Taepot Hill owned and trained by Harry Benson from Moira.

Third place, and £750 went to Swift Iniesta owned by Scotland's Alex Callachan and trained by Martin Lanney from Dundalk.

Sarah Shimmons, Beer Marketing Manager for Tennent's NI, was delighted at the success of the continuing relationship with Drumbo Park and said, "We're delighted to have partnered with Drumbo Park once again to support an event which has long been recognised as a highpoint of the sporting year and which is also a fantastic social occasion.



Divis View, winner of the 2014 Caledonia Smooth Gold Cup. Also pictured is owner, Dessie Gilroy (centre), receiving the winner's trophy from Annemarie McDonagh, Territory Manager, Tennent's NI, along with (from left), handler Joe Taggart, Caledonia Smooth promotional girl Anna Henry, breeder Erwin Birkmyre, and John Connor, Drumbo Park Racing Manager.

"We enjoyed a superb turnout for the gala final night with a thrilling finish to the headline race. The Grandstand Restaurant also enjoyed a full house which

added to the electric atmosphere. Race-goers obviously enjoyed getting into the party atmosphere and we were thrilled that Caledonia Smooth was once

again an integral part of the craic that makes greyhound racing at Drumbo Park such a fun night out for newcomers as well as dyed in the wool 'doggie men'."

New appointments at Tennent's NI



Gary Clarke,
Customer Service Manager



Jonathan Lloyd
Head of Finance



Julia Galbraith
Brand Activation Manager



Clare Megarry
Soft Drinks Brand Manager

UGAAWA Annual Awards

Donegal footballers may have lost the All-Ireland Senior final, rather unluckily to Kerry, but their exploits during the year were suitably recognised by the Ulster GAA Writers' Association at its 27th annual banquet.

Tir Connail received a treble of awards with Neil McGee winning the Male Footballer of the Year, Jim McGuinness the Personality of the Year and the Senior Footballers collected the new award of Team of the Year. That hat-trick was matched by Tyrone where the Handball Award went to Loughmacrory, the Cormac McAnallen Young Achiever of the Year winner was Breacach's multi-talented Johnny Woods, who plays both handball and football, and a

new Cultural Award went to Omagh St Enda's with the members celebrating by beating Crossmaglen Rangers in the Ulster Club FC less than 24 hours later.

'I wasn't expecting to win the Footballer of the Year award,' said Neil McGee, 'as there were many great performances from other players this year. However, I'm very pleased and thankful to be honoured.'



UGAAWA Annual Award Winners along with chairman John Martin and Ulster President Martin McAviney.

Neil got the nod for the award ahead of his county colleagues Michael Murphy and Ryan McHugh.

The Gweedore man was a major attraction at the banquet as, after the function, dozens of patrons were queuing up to have their pictures taken with the quiet, unassuming Donegal player who, despite being a corner-back, scored more from play than a combined total of all the players he marked in the championship.

Female Footballer of the Year was won by Armagh captain Caroline O'Hanlon while the Hurler of the Year is Antrim's Paul Shiels and the Camog is Megan Kerr (Derry).

In all, 13 awards were presented with the Chairman's Award going to ex-Antrim football captain Anto Finnegan, on behalf of the Deter Motor Neuron Disease. Deter Motor Neuron Disease and the Cormac Trust (in memory of the late Cormac McAnallen) shared the banquet charity ballot.

FULL LIST OF WINNERS:

Cultural Award
Omagh St Enda's.

Communications Award
Dermot McPeake (Derry).

Cormac McAnallen Young Achiever Award
Johnny Woods (Breacach).

Camogie Award
Megan Kerr (Derry).

Team of the Year
Donegal SF.

John McAviney Services to GAA
Seamus Woods (Ulster Colleges).

Club of the Year
Truagh.

Handball Award
Loughmacrory Handball Club.

Female Footballer of the Year
Caroline O'Hanlon (Armagh).

Hurler of the Year
Paul Shiels (Antrim).

Personality of the Year
Jim McGuinness (Donegal).

Male Footballer of the Year
Neil McGee (Donegal).

Chairman's Award
Anto Finnegan (Deter MND).

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1993

The Grand National that never was



50-1 shot Esha Ness is first past the post in the race that never was.

The Grand National in 1993 saw one of the darkest days in the sport's history.

The result had to be declared void after a false start was called, even though several horses finished the race. It left bookmakers having to refund £75 million in bets placed on the race.

Trouble started seconds before the race was due to begin, when protesters were spotted on the track. Following this initial delay, two false starts were caused by horses becoming tangled in the starting tape. On the second occasion, 30 of the 39 jockeys did not realise a false start had been declared and started the race.

The frantic signalling of course officials, trainers and spectators to warn the jockeys was to no avail. The recall flag was never raised, while some jockeys ignored red flags being waved at the Chair on the first lap. Eleven horses completed one lap of the gruelling two-lap race and seven finished. However, it was declared void and the race was never re-run.

Jenny Pitman, whose horse Esha Ness was the first of the seven to finish, was devastated at the outcome. 'This is no Grand National, even though I have won it,' she said.

Monica Seles stabbed

Monica Seles was the emerging challenger to Steffi Graf's dominance of the women's game in the early 1990s, and was on the verge of eclipsing her German counterpart.

She already had nine Grand Slam titles to her credit before she was stabbed on court by a spectator, in an incident that rocked the sporting world and dealt her career a blow from which she never truly recovered.



Monica Seles is treated court-side after the attack by Günter Parche.

The incident occurred during a routine quarter-final match against Magdalena Maleeva in Hamburg (for the record Seles was leading 6-4, 4-3). She had taken her seat at the change of ends when Günter Parche, an unemployed German labourer, ran from the stands to the edge of the court, leaned over the three-foot barrier, and plunged a 10-inch kitchen knife between her shoulder blades.

Seles was left with a deep knife wound and untold emotional scarring. She did not return to competitive action for over two years. To her immense credit, she won the Australian Open for a fourth time in 1996, defeating Anke Huber in an emotional final, but in truth she understandably failed to reach the heights she hit in the earlier part of the decade.

For his part, Parche was charged with attempted murder, but was convicted for the lesser crime of causing grievous bodily harm, an offence for which he received only a two-year suspended sentence.

Also this year...

Football - Manchester Utd won the inaugural Premier League title - their first league title in 26 years.

Formula 1 - Racing legend, Ayrton Senna, won his last ever race at the season's finalé in Adelaide, Australia.

Snooker - Jimmy White lost his fourth World Championship final 18-5 to Stephen Hendry, with a session to spare.



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