

Club Review

VOLUME 28 - Issue 7, 2015

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Minutes of the Executive meeting

Held in the H&W Welders FSC, Belfast on Tuesday 13th October 2015

The Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting following which the minutes of the September executive meeting were read out and subsequently passed as a true record, being proposed and seconded by Gerry Gallagher and Tommy McMinn.

Correspondence from clubs via email and the helplines was covered. In the main, this related to HR issues and the proposed amendments to the clubs order which awaits passing by the Legislative Assembly.

The Chairman relayed details of his discussion with Mr Rory Clark of McConnell Clark Chartered Surveyors, who is a member of the rating forum. The said discussion was based on the rating of clubs and in particular, to the effect Nav's (net annual valuations) have on such things as the BSKyB tariff.

In a meeting with BSKyB, the said tariffs were discussed in an attempt to bring additional clubs into the BSKyB service at the most beneficial cost. The association developed with BSKyB is helping matters and it is our desire to work together to provide what is best for our members.

The Chairman highlighted the package available to the Association of Conservative Clubs, which appears to rely on 75% of the said clubs signing up to the agreed tariff.

However, we see difficulties which may arise with this, in that if the

said percentage is not reached by the deadline, clubs which have signed-up could well be met with a higher cost. This may of course not be the case. Nevertheless, it is our wish to focus on the NAV applicable to the area or areas within a registered sports club which provides the BSKyB service. It is fair to say that a snooker or darts room is included in the NI Rating list as a prescribed sport or leisure activity and as such, is technically no different to a cricket, soccer or GAA pitch.

We await further information from Rory Clark on this and are hopeful we will have more detail on this issue in time for our November executive committee meeting.

Another energy company MJU Energy made an impressive presentation on the service they provide in respect to monitoring club energy costs. The important element of their service is the monitoring as a club moves through its contract period. It was highlighted, that although a renewal date could be some months away, energy could be secured at the most beneficial rate some months earlier. This is naturally interesting and will hopefully provide savings for our members.

The Chairman touched on Solar Energy which also has the potential to provide savings, although it can cause complications with some banks, some of which have concern due to the possible complication with

a clubs deeds etc. This matter will be further investigated, although we understand that government grants are being reduced.

On the matter of banking, the Chairman provided an overview of a meeting with Bank of Ireland in relation to his own club but which may have wider implications for all clubs with a Bank of Ireland association.

The long-standing arrangement with Bank of Ireland appears to be still in place to some extent. However, free banking is no longer an option. The Chairman is hopeful that Bank of Ireland will nevertheless continue to provide a competitive service in line with the long-standing association with Federation clubs having a Bank of Ireland affiliation.

At this point the Treasurer, Davy Larmour, presented a comprehensive financial report which was passed as a true record. One item was raised by the Assistant Chairman, Brian

McCartney, which referred to the cost of the mobile phones used for our helplines. It was explained by Gerry Gallagher that this was due to a misunderstanding as to the most cost effective means of use. Thankfully this has been resolved.

With the meeting completed, a presentation was made by Jim O'Brien of Botl on a new brand 'Butterfly Rum'. Jim is of course well known in club circles and together with Joan Kelly details of the new product was conveyed to members. It was explained that clubs can purchase the new brand via their chosen supplier or direct from Botl, the choice is entirely in their hands.

As this concluded matters thanks was extended to H&W Welders FSC for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality which followed.

*Harry Beckinsale
Public Relations Officer
On behalf of the Secretary,
Bob McGlone*

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N.I. Federation of Clubs remain firmly focused on rating review



John Davidson, Chairman,
N.I. Federation of Clubs

As Chairman of the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs, it is incumbent upon me to express concern upon learning of the 'Petition of Concern' lodged in regard to the proposal to afford registered sports clubs the additional 20% rates reduction on their sporting facilities.

While I appreciate the Minister feels that an alternative proposal will more appropriately address the issue, I nevertheless feel it important to remind members that we have lobbied for the additional 20% relief over several years, having been supported by those at the Legislative Assembly, which has in general been sympathetic to our request.

It should be remembered, that wishes to secure the additional 20% rates relief to sports clubs is only to the sports & leisure facilities they provide, with other areas being no different to other premises.

As long ago as 2001, the then Chief Executive of Sport

NI, Professor Eric Saunders, acknowledged, and I quote, "This survey is an indication of the economic importance of sporting clubs in Northern Ireland."

"It complements previous economic studies undertaken by the Sports Council and reinforces the significance of sport across the community in Northern Ireland in terms of the employment/engagement of almost 13,000 (to include full-time, part-time, trainees and volunteers) people, the creation of over £100 million of wealth for the economy each year and a consumer expenditure of £500,000 each day on sport. The Sports Council is working with clubs to ensure this healthy economic picture endures and grows".

More recently, the Minister, Arlene Foster and Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, outlined that sports tourism has the potential to raise up to £1 billion.

Is an already impoverished Legislative Assembly in a position to replace the substantial financial support of sport already provided by registered sports, social and recreational clubs?

It is essential that appropriate recognition is afforded to the number of children, young people supported by parents, grandparents and coaches, totalling thousands, who use their own transportation and hired buses, giving of their time in the

pursuit of their chosen sport, which is the very foundation of sporting successes enjoyed by a country, recognised throughout the world as punching well above its weight.

As outlined by Professor Saunders, the contribution to sport provided by the private member sports, social and recreational clubs sector, directly and in-directly cannot, and should not, be underestimated.

It has always been our aim to remain outside the political arena, rather preferring to rely on the continued cross-party support of our representatives at the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly. If this support was not to be forthcoming it would naturally be incumbent upon us to make an informed decision on the best way forward.

Hospitality Ulster are perceived to have a platform from which to promote their interests against those of others. Under direct rule, it was perceived they had the ear of those framing legislation, with the media in general appearing to be of the view that they are able to speak for everyone, when quite the opposite was, and remains, the case.

The comments made, particularly in regard to the quote from the Clubs Order relating to a club's ability to advertise, were inaccurate. The 'Members Only' clause on advertising was something we suggested many years ago when reaching agreement with Mr Ed Jefferson, RUC Policy Division, as to how advertising should be structured.

We will remain focused on securing improved clubs legislation, entertainment licensing, rating, and other issues relevant to the clubs sector, such as BSKYB etc.

Clubs warned to be vigilant

Gaming machine thefts on the rise

We have been informed of a worrying spike in the number of gaming machine thefts on mainland UK.

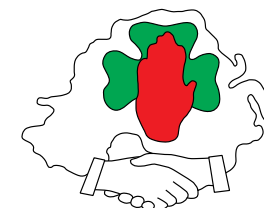
Even though these incidents are not in Northern Ireland, all clubs should nevertheless be very alert to strangers to prevent the same thing happening here.

The crime proceeds as follows:

A gang of three to five people go into a club and block the view of the target machine whilst the theft is performed. They usually have one member of the gang distract the bar staff/door staff whilst the theft is occurring and the victim may not be aware that they have been robbed until the gang has left the club, as they conceal visible signs of forced entry.

There is no reason why this sort of activity can't take place in Northern Ireland and we advise the following:

- If you do have CCTV systems in your club then try and ensure your machines are actively monitored but be aware that they will attempt to block the view of any camera recording their activities.
- Deter thieves by ensuring they cannot crowd around your machines, blocking the view of staff.



- Active engagement from staff is essential as the proximity of the machine to the bar is not a deterrent.
- If in any doubt, simply ask players to play existing games off, and then switch the machine off until they have moved on.



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Membership recruitment

One of the key components to a Club's successful and long term future lies in the ability to recruit new members. In most Clubs, whatever facilities are available, only one third of the total membership uses the Club regularly and its hard core is less than this. The aim therefore, is to increase the total membership in order to increase the proportion which makes up one third. Membership recruitment is a matter which should be discussed regularly by committees. Without a continuous programme of membership recruitment, a Club will eventually weaken. Club committees often place the onus of responsibility for recruiting new members on themselves, rather than correctly placing it on the

membership. It is the members who must propose and second new members, not just the committee. It does seem that people are often encouraged to become involved in membership recruitment if there is some form of reward involved. One of the most successful recruitment schemes is known as the 'bounty system,' whereby a member who introduces a new member receives some form of payment, usually by way of a bar voucher. For example, if a Club's membership subscription is £10, the payment of a £10 bar voucher to the introductory member (which will actually only cost the club the value of the stock, rather than the whole £10) has in many cases created a great deal of interest. Additionally, if the

Club gives the new Member another bar voucher for £10 then they will be encouraged to ensure they visit the Club at least once to use their bar voucher. For most Clubs the actual cost of providing £20 of bar vouchers will be close to the £10 subscription fee which has been paid so the exercise is cost neutral and will hopefully result in a new regular Club member. A further method, which has often proved successful, is the announcement that the Club intends to close the membership book. You would be surprised how many people will suddenly wish to become members of a Club if they think the Club will be difficult to join. I suspect that human nature dictates that most of us wish to belong to something which

has an element of exclusivity. Experience has also shown that many Clubs will recruit new members and will lose them at the following year's renewal time. I believe one of the reasons for this is that new members are not always made as welcome as they should be. All Clubs, by their very nature, tend to have established groups and sections and these can seem daunting to a new person using the Club for the first time. Three or four new members' evenings should be organised during the course of the year to which all members who have joined during the previous period are invited. These social occasions are a great way to help 'break the ice' and forge friendships with existing members.

The living wage and minimum wage increases

In the July 2015 Budget the Chancellor introduced a compulsory living wage to assist the lowest paid employees; it will be paid to workers aged 25 and above and initially it will be set at £7.20 an hour with a target of £9 an hour by 2020. Part-time and full-time workers will be eligible for the living wage rate.

Clubs should plan for the introduction of the living wage in the coming years; the current main minimum wage rate is £6.70 per hour, so the eventual living wage represents an increase of 34.5%. If bar staff and cleaners obtain rises, supervisors and the steward may also expect corresponding increases. In addition, clubs should also factor in pension

auto enrolment where a club has to contribute 1% when their staging date occurs, then increasing to 3% of banded earnings by September 2018. Thus in total, clubs are potentially looking at increases in wages of up to 39% by 2020.

The living wage starts in 7 months, April 2016 at £7.20 an hour. If changes are not made in employment practices clubs are looking at an increase of some 30p per pint in bar prices by 2020. If a pint sells for £3 then £1 of this income may be required to pay for bar staff wages. Committees should plan ahead to cope with this increase, examples of initiatives being considered are:

- Already, many clubs are replacing residential stewards

with bar managers without accommodation.

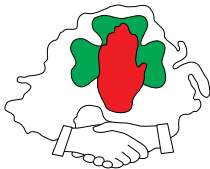
- Former steward's accommodation is being rented out to provide an additional income to the club.
- As a result of the living wage, students and people under 25 will be a lot more cost effective to employ, as only the minimum wage legislation will apply.
- Bar hours will have to be reviewed to ensure appropriate staffing at the appropriate times.
- Discussion should be held with suppliers to make them aware of the impact these changes will have on the club and further discounts should be explored.

The current National Minimum Wage (NMW) will run alongside the living wage, there are different levels of NMW, depending on age and whether you are an apprentice.

The current main rates are:

- aged 21 and over - £6.50 (£6.70)
- 18-20 £5.13 (5.30)

The figures in brackets are the new rates applicable from 1st October 2015. Workers must be of school leaving age (last Friday in June of the school year they turn 16) or over to get the minimum wage.



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Employee on sick leave posts images of themselves going out on social media. How can I approach this?

It is a common misconception that employees who are off work on sickness absence must hole themselves up in their home and not venture outside. The notion that, in order to be sick, employees must not be well enough to leave their home is also incorrect. While you and your employees may be frustrated by the circumstances, it is important to proceed with caution and not make any irrational decisions regarding how you will deal with the issue upon their return to work.

How you handle the employee in this circumstance depends on the reason that the employee is off sick and the

nature of the work that they perform for you. Not all illnesses which make someone unfit for work will also mean that the employee cannot continue as normal in other parts of their life.

Where the employee tells you that they cannot come into work because they have broken their ankle, and then you see on Facebook that they are dancing on both feet without crutches in a night club, you may be acting reasonably to question the employee's truthfulness. It would be a similar situation with an employee who claims they have a contagious illness and therefore cannot be in the

presence of other people, and are then seen on Instagram hugging people at a party. You should speak to them when they come back to work, tell them what you have found and ask them to provide an explanation. If they cannot, you should deal with it as a disciplinary issue which could result in a warning.

It is vital that you consider the surrounding facts because the employee may have been given a recommendation by their doctor to socialise or to undertake other pastimes that they enjoy. This could be the case if the employee is off sick with depression or anxiety related issues. Just because

someone is off with depression does not mean that they should not be seen enjoying themselves.

It is also worthwhile considering that the photos that were taken and uploaded to social media were not taken recently. It is possible that the employee is in fact resting at home, but still using their social networks to communicate. As per the advice above, employers should not take an accusatory approach to questioning an employee's activities while off sick, as this can cause unnecessary harm to the employer-employee relationship.

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Norman Coleman,
Crusaders FC

To arrange a visit contact Mark on 028 9073 7252, 077 7699 4807 or email mark@mjutilities.com

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Questions & Answers

Q. On New Year's Eve we held a ticket only event and charged VAT on the price of the tickets. During the event we provided live music and singers as entertainment. We have been informed that we may not have needed to pay VAT on the sale of these New Year's Eve tickets as it could have been defined as a 'Cultural Event'. Is this correct?



A. Room Hire charges and event tickets will attract VAT unless the reason for the room hire is a cultural event. There is no specific definition of a 'cultural entertainment' within VAT legislation, but it is taken to mean any live performance of a theatrical, musical or choreographed nature. In our experience this covers anything from bands, singers, comedians, dancers or similar. It is important to note that one person's idea of culture may not meet another person's view on this issue but it doesn't need to, as long as the performance is live and involves music, dancing, or might be seen in a theatre (or similar), then it is likely to be cultural in nature. Typically, the biggest VAT savings come

from not applying VAT on ticket sales for Cultural Events, although you should also be able to use the same argument regarding charging for room hire for Cultural Events.

Although Clubs need to apply for this exemption on a case by case basis, there is no reason why your Club would be unable to benefit from the exemption as we have had other Clubs who have succeeded in this matter and now no longer apply VAT on the revenue from ticket sales on cultural events. There is a small chance of reclaiming VAT on past payments, although most Clubs are focusing on making sure that VAT is not paid going forwards on cultural events.

I would therefore suggest that it is worth seeking to exempt any cultural events that the Club holds from VAT on ticket sales or room hire.

Q. Can you let us know what the statutory holiday allowance for employees should be and whether bank holidays should be taken as part of the allowance or on top?

A. All employees, whether full-time or part-time, are legally entitled to 5.6 weeks' paid annual leave. Additional annual leave may be agreed as part of a contract. A week's leave should allow employees to be away from work for a

week i.e. it should be the same amount of time as the working week. If an employee works a five-day week, they are entitled to twenty-eight days leave per annum. If an employee works a three-day week, the entitlement is 16.8 days leave per annum.

Employers can set the times that employees take their leave, for example for a Christmas shutdown. If an employment ends, the employee has a right to be paid for the leave time due and not taken.

There is no statutory entitlement to paid leave for public holidays. Any right to paid time off for such holidays depends on the terms of the contract. If the contract does not specify this, the right to paid leave may have built up through custom and practice. Paid public holidays can be counted as part of the statutory 5.6 weeks' holiday entitlement under the Working Time Regulations 1998.

There are normally eight Public Holidays per year.

If you have a question that your club needs answered then don't hesitate to contact the N.I. Federation of Clubs via telephone or email.



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Butterfly Cane Rum hits the shelves

Butterfly Cane Rum is an exciting new brand that has just been launched by Botl Wine & Spirit Merchants. Based on the Boucher Road in Belfast, supplier and distributor Botl is the sole owner of the innovative new brand which is targeting the burgeoning demand for rum.

Butterfly Cane Rum is a premium-quality, 3 year old rum matured in oak barrels by the Fernandes Family Distillers in Trinidad. The 3 year old golden rum has been developed to appeal to the changing taste palate of consumers.

The brand name is inspired by nature, the pure cane sugar grown in Trinidad is harvested when the native species of butterfly, known locally as the 'Scarlet Peacock', land on the crop feeding off the ripe sap. Only when the butterflies gather, is the crop harvested to make Butterfly Cane Rum. Available as a premium-quality, 3 year old Golden rum matured in oak barrels at 37.5% ABV, alongside a Spiced variant at 35% ABV.

Joan Kelly, Marketing Manager for the brand, commented, "When developing Butterfly Cane Rum, we wanted to develop a premium quality rum. The brand and taste profile were painstakingly researched at every stage of development and we firmly believe it will be more appealing to both male and female drinkers who are becoming more and more discerning. It will be positioned comfortably alongside the category leaders, and is premium in every way, from the smooth 3 year old



Sean Burrell shares his cocktail-making expertise with Stephanie Marney and Emma McCoubrey at the recent Butterfly Cane Rum launch party held at the Galgorm Estate.

spirit itself, to the labelling, packaging, and point of sale material. Every consideration has been given to all aspects of Butterfly Cane Rums and we believe this level of attention to detail will give it universal appeal."

"We have been working with outlets to create perfect serves and develop the best drinks around, both the 3 year old Golden Rum and our Butterfly Cane Spiced Rum. With rum being one of the key categories in growth, while other spirits are in decline, it's a really exciting time for us; this is our future and can only be good for Northern Ireland. We have already secured listings with Tesco, Asda, Winemark, Wineflair local wholesalers and numerous top on-trade

accounts. We have high expectations, this is a local product and we hope the trade will support it."

Botl, is owned and operated by drinks industry stalwart Jim O'Neill who began his career with the Irish Bonding Company, Diageo and Hollywood and Donnelly, before founding and running United Wine Merchants for 20 years before its sale to Waverley TBS. Jim commented, "Botl are delighted to be associated with the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs and we look forward to working with more and more clubs. We are

pleased to have the support of the executive committee for the brand and hope that more clubs will choose to list Butterfly Cane 3yo as their golden rum."



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*A metaphor for the existence of seemingly insignificant moments that alter history and shape destinies.

Getting OKTOBERFEST-IVE could pay off with a trip to Munich

The celebrated creativity of Northern Ireland's on trade was challenged in October with a prize package of a trip for two to Munich up for grabs, courtesy of Tennent's NI.

The trip to remember for two staff members will go to the outlet (*winner to be notified at the start of November*) which best promoted Tennent's NI showcased Oktoberfest brands ... and there's no better time to celebrate the great Bavarian brands of Lowenbrau, Spaten (the 'official' Oktoberfest beer) and Franziskaner, cordially joined by other European favourites; Hoegaarden, Leffe and Staropramen.

Paula Colhoun, Customer Marketing Manager for Tennent's NI, said, "We wanted to do something special to incentivise and reward the amazing staff who are championing our speciality brands at this key time of year, many of whom are almost as passionate about these great, flavoursome beers as we are ourselves! At the same time, the initiative also created a fantastic

opportunity for consumers to engage with not only some of the best known Bavarian classics, but also some great-tasting speciality beers which may be new to them: 'Glücklich zu sehen', as they say!"

Participating outlets will be judged on brand visibility and presentation of the lager brands. In order to enter, a minimum of four images were to have been submitted by 23rd October showing how the incentive kits were used to creative and sparkling effect!

The visibility kits featured a range of themed promotional items including: Oktoberfest tablecloths, bunting, posters, a hanging sign, table flags, Bavarian Hats, T-Shirts, a



Pictured at one of the Oktoberfest activities that took place as part of the Tennent's NI trade incentive are (centre) Paula Colhoun, Customer Marketing Manager for Tennent's NI, and Cormac McCool; with Oktoberfest girls (left) Stephanie McGall and Grace Kerr.

Bavarian Oktoberfest flag, themed chalkboard, drip mats, bar staff badges, and Beer Booklets with tasting notes.

Paula added, "The Northern Ireland bar team with the best Oktoberfest display, judged from the visuals submitted, wins the prize trip and two members of staff will be jetting off to enjoy a fabulous three-night trip to the Munich

Christmas Markets in early December ...a great chance to savour Lowenbrau, Spaten and Franziskaner in the brands' native country, with a guided walking tour of Munich's authentic German Christmas markets, 4-star accommodation, return flights and private airport transfers."

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Harp Angel hitches ride in taxi with a difference Belfast-built car of the future helps angel 'Look on the Harp side'

At 10.04pm on a dark October night, the Harp Angel - dressed as a mad scientist - caught the ride of a lifetime after zip-lining from Belfast's iconic Gasworks clock tower, in a nod to an '80s sci-fi classic. Waiting to pick him up in his two-seater car was 'Marty', a west-Belfast taxi driver with a thick local accent and a glint in his eye.

The filmed stunt, created by Harp as a way to champion Northern Ireland's optimistic spirit and the brand's unique way of 'Looking on the Harp side', featured well-known local actors Dan Gordon and Gerard McCabe as 'Marty' and the mad scientist / Harp Angel respectively.

Lisa Ronayne, Brand Manager Europe - Harp, said, "In 1985, two of the most celebrated characters in film history took to the skies in a Northern Ireland-built time machine and travelled thirty years into the future, eventually arriving today: October 21, 2015.

"At Harp, another iconic Northern Irish brand, we wanted to pay respect to the achievements of these two exceptional pioneers of time travel and their amazing flying machine. We wanted to thank them for their outstanding contributions to science fiction and thought the best way of doing this was by paying homage to their original time-travelling journey which took place at the Hill Valley clock tower in 1955.

"I look forward to thanking them both in person, in the future, if I haven't already done so."



Marty (Dan Gordon) and the Harp Angel, pictured alongside their Belfast-built time machine at The Gasworks Clock, Belfast.

Diageo Reserve World Class Bartender of the Year

Michito Kaneko from Japan was crowned world's best bartender at the gala final award of the Diageo Reserve World Class Bartender of the Year 2015 held recently in Cape Town.

Michito was selected the best of the best from among the original 54 contenders, after four days of challenges presided over by leading authorities in the world of fine drinking and experiential cocktail culture.

"When I heard my name, I couldn't believe what I was hearing - I was in total shock," said Michito after the announcement. "I'm very happy to have won. This is definitely a turning point in my life. I can't wait to tell my wife and family. But I must remember that even though I am the World Class champion, I must stay humble and true to myself and what I love."



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LOOK ON THE HARP SIDE



Cancer Focus NI scores a first at RSPH public health awards

Cancer Focus Northern Ireland is the first local charity to receive recognition for its excellent achievements at the prestigious Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) annual awards.

A total of 26 organisations from across the UK were presented with awards for their work in health and wellbeing - but Cancer Focus NI is the first Northern Ireland organisation to be honoured in the award's eight year history.

Cancer Focus NI received its award for best practice in its wide-ranging work in cancer prevention and care services, particularly the Well Aware service, which brings health checks to older people in the community and raises awareness of the signs and symptoms of the disease.

The Well Aware team has visited thousands of residents at sheltered accommodation and community venues all over Northern Ireland.

Dervilia Kernaghan, Cancer Focus NI Well Aware Project Coordinator, said, "We are delighted to have been recognised by the RSPH. As we grow older our risk of cancer increases with around 75% of diagnoses in the over 60s. Because of this, Cancer Focus NI felt it was vitally important to offer health improvement services targeting this age group.

"Our aim is to empower older people to take control of their own health and to feel confident enough to speak to a doctor if they have any concerns. We're delighted with



Naomi Thompson, from Cancer Focus Northern Ireland, received a prestigious national award on behalf of the charity from Lord Kamlesh Patel, vice president of the Royal Society for Public Health. The coveted award is in recognition of Cancer Focus NI's cancer prevention work and care services, particularly for its Well Aware project.

the positive response we've had since the project started two years ago. It's obvious we are filling a need among some of the most vulnerable in our society."

She added, "Our key messages to everyone, regardless of age, are don't smoke, eat a healthy diet, limit alcohol, exercise regularly, take care in the sun and take up cancer screening when invited."

Shirley Cramer, CEO of RSPH, said, "The RSPH has a long history of promoting good practice in public health and we are proud of our Health and Wellbeing Awards, which

provide a stage to celebrate the great work of organisations regardless of their sector, size and setting.

"It was an extremely competitive field this year and I would like to congratulate our 2015 winners who are all exemplars of innovative, progressive programmes to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. I hope that their effective programmes will be adopted and celebrated elsewhere."

There were entries from local authorities, health organisations, education providers, social enterprises,

voluntary/charity organisations and private sector organisations all over the UK.

Well Aware is a partnership between Cancer Focus NI and Choice Housing and is funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

For more information or to arrange a Well Aware visit, email: wellaware@cancerfocusni.org or call 028 9068 0743.

To book the Cancer Focus NI Keeping Well health check van for your workplace or organisation, call 028 9066 3281 or email keepingwell@cancerfocusni.org

Tennent's NI staff prepare to lend a hand

Tennent's NI employees have pledged their support to local charity, PIPS (Public Initiative for Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm), undertaking to raise £20,000 for their designated charity.

Launching the appeal, Brian Beattie, Marketing Director for Tennent's NI, said, "Our staff are famously generous in support of their chosen charities and over the years they have raised tens of thousands of pounds for a range of good causes, supporting important work in our community. PIPS is a fantastic organisation which provides suicide prevention and bereavement support services, counselling and therapies across Belfast and throughout Northern Ireland. It supports

people who are considering, or who have at some point considered, ending their own lives and the organisation has become synonymous with the provision of support during crisis times and with suicide and self-harm prevention.

"We are proud to lend a hand to a charity whose work has such far-reaching positive impact in our community and we look forward to a close partnership developing over the year."

Welcoming the support, Brian Maguire, Chief Executive of PIPS, said, "I would just like to say a big thank you to Tennent's NI and its staff for choosing PIPS as its charity of the year. It is a tremendous honour and privilege to be supported



Getting into the picture with a colourful tribute to the PIPS charity's palm tree logo is Brian Beattie, Marketing Director of Tennent's NI, with Brian Maguire, Chief Executive of PIPS.

in this way. We are excited by the partnership and are looking forward to working with Tennent's NI and its employees over the coming year."

To support PIPS call the Events & Fundraising team on 028 9080 5850. To donate visit www.justgiving.com/pipsspireland

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UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winner



Pauric Kerr, centre, displays the UGAAWA Award for September alongside the All-Ireland minor C championship trophy, won by Tyrone hurlers after two epic battles against Mayo. Also pictured is Quinn Building Products, Cement Sales Manager, Sean McCaffrey and UGAAWA Chairman, John Martin.

Pic by Jim Dunne

There may have been no Ulster sides in action in Croke Park in September, but there was still plenty of action for the Quinn Building Products Ulster GAA Writers' Association to get their teeth into.

Club championships throughout the nine counties dominated headlines but it was an All-Ireland crown that came north that most attracted the scribes' attention. Tyrone minor hurlers lifted the All-Ireland C title after two epic battles against Mayo.

Dominating the Red Hand rearguard was Pauric Kerr, who marshalled the Tyrone defence from the full back berth. The young apprentice electrician from the Eire Og club admitted his surprise at picking up the Writers' award, and paid tribute to his team-mates.

"It's amazing to get the award and to be recognised, first of all as a player from this grade

of competition, secondly to be a Tyrone hurler and as a defender - sometimes we don't get the same recognition as the forwards. It is though, an award for the whole team," said Kerr.

After a pulsating draw in Leitrim, Tyrone trailed by eight points in the replay but produced a stunning comeback, with Kerr playing a key role in the number three jersey as Mayo threw everything at them.

Pauric receives an engraved Belleek Living vase, training gear from O'Neill's International Sports, specially designed silver cuff links from Carlingford Design House and a deluxe medical kit bag from 3FiveTwo at Kingsbridge Private Hospital.

Pauric also receives two tickets and overnight accommodation for the UGAAWA Banquet which takes place on Friday, November 13, at the Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran.

NI Football Writers' Awards



September's Manager of the Month is Ballymena United FC boss Glenn Ferguson. BBC Sport's Stephen Watson presented the award to Lee Doherty, who accepted the award on Glenn's behalf.

Glenn Ferguson was given the nod for the September NI Football Writers Award due to a terrific month that saw his squad remain undefeated in all competitions. There were

some outstanding victories along the way, most notably their 3-1 win away to Glentoran followed up with a 6-1 thrashing of Cliftonville at the Showgrounds.



NIFWA's Premiership Player of the Month for September is Linfield striker Andy Waterworth. Waterworth hit a sensational seven goals in the month of September, including a four goal haul against Warrenpoint Town and a crucial brace against Glenavon. Andy picked his award up from Stephen Watson, BBC Sport.

Quietly wins Tennent's Gold Cup at Drumbo

Quietly, trained by Ian Riley from Navan and owned by the K-S-S-Syndicate, Kent, earned a £5,000 prize as winner of the Tennent's Gold Cup Final at Drumbo Park Greyhound Stadium on 24th October.

In recent weeks a series of fast and furious heats identified the six top dogs for the 2015 Cup Final, with a total prize pot of £10,000 at stake. On finals night, all eyes were on the top prize as the dogs came out of the traps for one of Drumbo Park's biggest and richest events.

Brian Beattie, Marketing Director for Tennent's NI, is delighted at the success of the continuing relationship with Drumbo Park and says, "We're delighted to be involved in such a high calibre competition as the Tennent's Gold Cup in conjunction with Drumbo Park.

"The excitement that has surrounded this year's Tennent's Gold Cup has been

fantastic and we enjoyed a superb turnout for the gala final night.

"The finale of the Tennent's Gold Cup is a highlight of the social as well as the sporting calendar at Drumbo Park, so we were delighted that Tennent's Lager was at the heart of that sociability and that race-goers enjoyed themselves and got into the party atmosphere; all part of the craic that makes greyhound racing at Drumbo Park such an exhilarating night out."



Top dog 'Quietly' is pictured at the trophy presentation with (l-r): John Connor, Racing Manager for Drumbo Park, Ciaran Burke, Tennent's promotional girl Steph McGall, trainer Ian Reilly, (crouched) David White, Ross Heggarty, Tennent's NI Regional Sales Manager presenting the trophy to Eadaoin Keys, Shannon Riley, Frank Burke, and Tennent's promotional girl Lucy Stewart.



Pictured at the Tennent's Gold Cup at Drumbo Park are Tommy McMinn, Kathleen McMinn, Tommy McMinn and Laura McMinn from East Belfast Constitutional Club.

Pictured at the 2015 final of the Tennent's Gold Cup at Drumbo Park are (l-r) Tennent's NI's Jeff Tosh, Ross Heggarty and Rod McCrory.



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A Tribute to Munich



A jubilant Manchester United do a lap of honour after winning the Cup.

From the moment his 'Busby Babes' team perished on the ice at Munich airport in 1958, Matt Busby made it his personal responsibility to win Manchester United the European Cup, in order to honour the memory of those who had lost their lives. Ten years later at Wembley, only Benfica and Eusebio, their world-famous talisman, stood in Busby's way. The tough Scotsman was not about to feel intimidated by the opposition, however. He had a new superstar of his own - young Georgie Best - and in Bobby Charlton, a survivor of the Munich tragedy, he had an ally who understood perfectly why this had to be United's night. Charlton opened the scoring and Eusebio hit back. But Best dribbled round the keeper to put his side ahead again, and even a teenager called Brian Kid got in on the act with a classy goal. Charlton's second settled it at 4-1, and provided the right conclusion to a moving story.

The European Cup was destined for Old Trafford, and there was an inescapable feeling that it was meant to be. For Busby and Charlton, who had carried a decade of weight on their shoulders as they sought to make the dream a reality, the realization that they had finally done it was almost too much. They hugged tearfully, knowing that their colleagues and close friends of 1958 had been remembered and honoured in the best way that was left to those who had survived.

Sobers Hits Six Sixes



Sobers, a true genius of the game.

On 31 August 1968, Sir Garfield Sobers' place in cricket's hall of fame was cemented, when he became the first player in history to hit six sixes in an over. The West Indian all-rounder was playing for his county Nottinghamshire, and Glamorgan's Malcolm Nash was the unfortunate bowler on the receiving end of one of the most spectacular displays of clean hitting ever witnessed.

Nottinghamshire were chasing quick runs as they sought a declaration, and Sobers found himself up against Nash, normally a briskish, medium-pace bowler, experimenting as a slow left-armer. The experiment did not last long. Nash's first two deliveries disappeared into the stands of the Cricketer's Inn at Swansea, and it dawned on Sobers that he may be on to something special. The third flew straight into the pavilion enclosure and the fourth ball cleared the scoreboard. The fifth was hit long and straight, and although Roger Davis caught it, he fell over the boundary rope in the process, and another six was signalled. Sobers pulled the sixth ball out of the ground and into St Helen's Avenue, confirming his place in history. The ball itself was not found until the following day.

Also this year...

- Football** - Manchester City won the English First Division for only the second time in their history.
- Golf** - Gary Player triumphed at Carnoustie, winning The Open Championship by 2 strokes from Bob Charles and Jack Nicklaus.
- Formula 1** - Formula One legend, Jim Clark, died after a crash in a Formula 2 practice at Hockenheim, Germany.



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