

Club Review

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in the R.A.O.B. HQ Club, Belfast,
on Saturday 7th March 2015

The Chairman opened the 2015 AGM by requesting a minute's silence in respect of past executive committee and club members and delegates, following which the PRO was invited to read the minutes of the 2014 AGM. The Chairman preceded this by explaining that the PRO would read the 2014 minutes due to the Secretary, Bob McGlone, being in hospital recovering from illness. Our North West representative was also unable to attend due to a family wedding.

The minutes were passed as a true record by R. Hyndes of the Ulster Maple Leaf Club and seconded by Brian Dunbar of the Meadowbank Club in County Down.



Federation accountant, Lawrence Shearer, gave sound guidance on the upcoming auto-enrolment pensions legislation.



Federation Chairman, John Davidson, in discussion.

The Federation Secretary, David Larmour, then provided a detailed financial report which was subsequently proposed and seconded by R. Hynds and Hugh Stockman of West Belfast HPS and Social Club.

At this point the Chairman John Davidson proceeded to provide an overview of the favourable changes to the Clubs Order which we anticipate will be introduced. It was explained by the Chairman that they have passed the committee stage at the Legislative Assembly.

Following a discussion with the Ministers' official, Liam Quinn, it seems that matters are progressing satisfactorily, albeit slower than we would wish.

Federation accountant, Lawrence Shearer, provided an overview of the auto-enrolment pension scheme which all employers are required to implement. He explained the complexities of the scheme, adding that it is advised to secure the services of a professional advisor, such as the services negotiated with Rollins Club Insurance.

The PRO, Harry Beckinsale underlined the issue of advising staff, stating that employers

are not permitted to advise employees, but rather that employees are required to seek advice from an unbiased source. Furthermore, to offer advice is an offence which carries a heavy penalty.

The PRO continued to provide details of PPL and PRS requirements, explaining that he has been attempting to establish the same line of communication with PPL to that which exists with PRS. He explained that,

continued on page 4

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just prior to the AGM, he had been contacted by PPL, who have asked for a meeting at the earliest opportunity. Arrangements have subsequently been provisionally arranged to meet on 31st March 2015.

With the vast majority of clubs in Northern Ireland being associated with one sport or another, and importantly being non-profit making, a joint PPL & PRS licence could provide a better financial outcome for clubs. The said joint license is only available to the aforesaid amateur sports clubs, which provides an advantage for our members against the club sector in mainland UK.

BskyB's Pub and Club package is providing lower costs for a number of clubs. If a clubs' rating falls into the suitable band it can lower the cost of the package substantially, something which has already been enjoyed

by a number of clubs. Not all will benefit but many will. Moreover, the Pub and Club package provides three boxes. The PRO conveyed details of the new local representative and area manager, who have been helpful in resolving issues. We of course endeavour to reduce costs and find that the established association has provided a much improved platform from which to progress.

Employment issues are always an area of concern, and these are usually covered by executive committee member Joe Patterson, who it was explained, was away on family business. However, the PRO provided details of advice provided by the Labour Relations Agency in respect to an employment manual produced by 'DAS' which was acknowledged by the Labour Relations Agency as an excellent advice tool.

Although not all clubs will be insured via the Rollins Club policy which incorporates the 'DAS' HR package, the 'DAS' brochure provides up-to-date information specifically related to Northern Ireland employment legislation. At this point the Chairman interceded to emphasise, that although the 'DAS' brochure is excellent, clubs should nevertheless contact their insurance company in the first instance and take their guidance in order to avoid the possibility of costs being incurred, should procedures not be followed appropriately. The Chairman also advised that clubs not insured via the Rollins Club policy should check with their current insurers to enquire on whether this cover is provided under their club policy.

With utility bills being a big burden on clubs, Damien McGlinchy, an independent



R.A.O.B. Club General Manager, Tom McNaught. Thanks were extended to Tom for hosting yet another well attended AGM.

utility provider addressed the meeting, providing details of the various providers and best current rates for both gas and electricity suppliers. Damien has been very helpful to us over the years and is well placed to advise on these matters. He welcomes club officials to contact him to

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seek the best rate possible for their club.

Many will have received correspondence from B&Q containing 'Tradepoint' cards which provide a discount on a wide selection of DIY products. Trade Point managers, Michael Mateer, based at the Newtownabbey store, and Andy Nichol from the Craigavon store, were present with Michael's presentation advising on how the card can be used to best effect. Both representatives remained to speak to members following the meeting.

The Chairman then spoke on the support of charities and good causes, by the Federation and its members, making particular reference to the Cancer Fund for Children's new Daisy Lodge facility at Shimna Valley in Newcastle County Down. John spoke on the humbling experience of the executive committees' visit to the facility, which was opened by Rory McLroy, who has himself embraced the charity over some years now. The PRO said this was particularly special to the Federation when considering that club sector member, Holywood Golf Club, is where Rory honed his craft.

Gillian Creevy, Chief Executive of the Cancer Fund expressed thanks for the support of the Federation and its members,

all of whom have been tremendously helpful over many years in supporting various projects. Continuing, Gillian highlighted how important the club sector has been in also supporting other local charities.

The PRO was invited to speak further, due to his long association with a range of charities, to include his role as Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of Fleming Fulton Special School, and also as a long term supporter of the Cancer Fund for Children. The PRO expressed special thanks to the Federation Executive and member clubs alike for the support he has received. He also made special reference to how the Cancer Fund for Children has developed from the early years, as well as the major contribution made by Gillian in taking the charity to its present day position.

In conclusion, the Ulster Maple Leaf Club official, Freddy Brady, made reference to the rates issue, which of course has seen an increase as an outcome of the rating review. The PRO confirmed that average increases seem to be around 8% with others being higher. It was explained that Rory Clark of McConnell Clark, has been very helpful in this area through the provision of advice on the rateable area of a club. Although a fee is of course



(L-R) Federation executive committee member, Raymond Connor, with attending delegates from the Maple Leaf Club.

charged, his advice stands to benefit a club through reduced rating, particularly in respect to gaining sports club status which provides an 80% reduction on the area within a club used for a prescribed sports or leisure activity listed under the rating act, providing that at least 20% of the premises meet the criteria.

Tom McNaught of the RAOB HQ expressed a vote of thanks

to the Federation for the excellent work they carry out on behalf of the club sector.

At this point the Chairman thanked all those in attendance and invited them to remain to enjoy some hospitality.

Harry Beckinsale
on behalf of
Bob McGlone, Secretary,
N.I. Federation of Clubs

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Top ten things you need to know about auto enrolment

Auto enrolment is new government legislation that requires every business to automatically enrol its workforce into a pension scheme and contribute to it. It is compulsory and there is no 'do nothing' option. Here, we examine the top ten things you need to know about auto enrolment and outline the solution we have put in place to help you deal with it.

1. The date by which you need to comply. Businesses need to comply on their 'staging date'. This depends on the number of employees on their largest payroll in April 2012. The Pensions Regulator will write to you about 12 months before your staging date to tell you when you will be affected, or you can visit their website and put your PAYE reference number into their calculator.
2. What happens if you don't comply. You need to declare to The Pensions Regulator that your scheme is compliant so the regulator will know if you miss your staging date. If you have made no effort to comply, they can levy uncapped daily fines. If you tried but got it wrong, you are unlikely to be fined but will have to fix the mistakes and might be required to make extra pension contributions.
3. The number of employer responsibilities. There are



- 33 mandated responsibilities explained in over 500 pages of guidance.
4. The amount you will need to contribute. To begin with, you must contribute at least 1% of 'relevant earnings' to the employee's pension pot. That then goes up to 2% in 2017 and 3% in 2018.

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It is likely that there will be more increases in the future but they haven't been announced yet.

5. The amount your employees will need to contribute. Your employees must contribute at least 1% of 'relevant earnings' at the beginning, 3% in 2017 and 5% in 2018. They can contribute less, but only if you contribute more so that the total contribution remains the same.
6. How many of your workers are likely to join the scheme. The government originally expected that at least 75% of workers would join the pension scheme, but so far around 90% of workers have stayed in.
7. What you absolutely must not do. All employers have had legislated 'safeguarding' responsibilities from July 2012. This means that

you cannot do anything to encourage your employees to opt out of the pension scheme. That includes asking people at interview if they intend to join, or answering any employee's questions in a way that encourages them to opt out. This is onerous and you need to be careful.

8. Whether you can use your existing pension scheme, if you have one. There are rules about what schemes can be used for auto enrolment. Older schemes might not meet the criteria and some pension providers will not allow all their pension schemes to be used. Pension providers might also not accept all the new employees on the same terms, or at all.
9. What you need to communicate. There are mandatory communications

that you need to provide to your employees. You might also want to offer additional communications.

10. How often you have to re-enrol your workers. Workers who opt out of the pension scheme have to be automatically re-enrolled every three years. If they still don't want to be in the scheme, they will need to opt out again.

Recommended solution

Rollins Financial Services have selected Creative Auto Enrolment as our preferred partner for auto enrolment to help you comply. Their solution is fast, free to you, online, and the pension is backed by

Scottish Widows. We have chosen it because it is the easiest way for you to comply with auto enrolment and leaves you with the least possible work. It works with your existing payroll systems and there is no need to buy any additional software or change your existing processes. We will help you register and get started.

Sign up through Rollins Financial Services today and we will calculate your staging date for you and make sure you are compliant when the time comes.

For more information, please email gordon@rbfp.co.uk or call 07738 081882.



Employers - ignore at your peril!

The government has decided that every employer has to offer a workplace pension and make contributions to it on behalf of their employees. This legislation came into force for the largest employers from October 2012 and by 2018 every employer will have reached their 'staging date', the date from which they have to comply.

This is complicated, especially for employers that do not have an in-house pensions or HR specialist. Research shows that many employers struggle with even the most fundamental tasks, such as establishing the date auto enrolment applies to them.

The good news is, **we do everything - except what** only the employer can do. You can sign at any time before your staging date and we **will ensure you are compliant when the time comes.**

Our solution was developed with the needs of employers staging in 2015 and beyond in mind, so there are no complicated decisions that you need to make.

There is no need for you to become a pensions expert or buy or upgrade any additional payroll software. All that is needed is to maintain the payroll and pay the pension contributions as they fall due.

Contact us for an obligation free consultation

Tel: 028 9042 3555, or e-mail gordon@rbfp.co.uk

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New auto enrolment duties include:

- Selecting the most appropriate compliance strategy
- Assessing and categorising employees every pay period
- Choosing a pension provider
- Designing a default investment strategy that is suitable for most employees
- Communicating with all employees
- Ensuring no-one at the employer encourages anyone to opt out
- Making employer contributions to the pension scheme
- Deducting contributions from employees' wages and paying them into the pension scheme
- Maintaining a complete audit trail that can be inspected by the Pensions Regulator at any time
- Ensuring companies have a solution that meets all government standards
- Officially declaring compliance to the Pensions Regulator within five months of the employer's staging date and then every three years
- Ongoing governance and oversight of the chosen pension scheme

Trade Point

online shopping for DIY

With the enormous increase in on-line shopping it makes sense to explore B&Q's 'Trade Point' site.

The cards, issued to clubs in 2014/15, provide an opportunity to save on items you may require for either the

clubrooms or the home, and although not all items will provide a big saving, many will.

It really isn't that difficult to find what you are looking for, so give it a try before you commit to purchasing your DIY goods.



Taking a break

What rests are staff legally entitled to?

Workers over 18 are usually entitled to 3 types of break - rest breaks at work, daily rest and weekly rest.

Rest breaks at work

Workers have the right to one uninterrupted 20 minute rest break during their working day (this could be a tea or lunch break), if they work more than 6 hours a day.



Daily rest

Workers have the right to 11 hours rest between working days, eg. if they finish work at 8pm, they shouldn't start work again until 7am the next day.

aren't entitled to rest breaks for health and safety reasons.

Weekly rest

Workers have the right to either:

- an uninterrupted 24 hours without any work each week
- an uninterrupted 48 hours without any work each fortnight

Employers can say when employees take rest breaks during work time as long as:

- the break is taken in one go somewhere in the middle of the day (not at the beginning or end)
- workers are allowed to spend it away from their desk or workstation (ie away from where they actually work)

A worker's employment contract may say they're entitled to more or different rights to breaks from work.

Work that puts health and safety at risk

An employer should give an employee enough breaks to make sure their health and safety isn't at risk if that work is 'monotonous' (eg work on a production line).

Employers should be aware, it doesn't count as a rest break if an employer says an employee should go back to work before their break is finished.

Unless a worker's employment contract says so, they don't have the right to:

- take smoking breaks
- get paid for rest breaks

Domestic workers in a private house (eg a cleaner or au pair)

You can read more about rest breaks at work at www.gov.uk/rest-breaks-work

Con Club gets 'First Class' makeover

Atmosphere and comfort thanks to First Choice and Classic

How often have you heard the advice that those who prepare best suffer less! Yes, we have all come through a difficult financial period, and although it is not entirely as it once was, there is certainly a more positive air about.

One thing has remained, in good or bad times, and that is that people expect the best and this is where good club management comes into play.

The recent renovation at the East Belfast Constitutional Club undertaken by Tommy McMinn, who is also a Federation executive committee member, has provided a bright, fresh and modern member area.

Tommy commented, "Contractors, Ken Nelson - Classic Pubs & Clubs, and Jim Lavery - First Choice Upholstery, have made our renovation a breeze with everything going to plan from start to finish. Quality workmanship and quality materials always give you a quality result, which is exactly what we've got. A beautiful relaxing and comfortable club that members and their guests can now enjoy for years to come."

The NIFC congratulate Tommy and the Constitutional Club management committee on the completion of this new project and wish them continued success for the future.



Tom McMinn (centre), Con Club, Chairman and NIFC Executive Committee member, pictured with Ken Nelson (left), Classic Pubs & Clubs, and Jim Lavery, First Choice Upholstery.

Right: The newly renovated lounge.



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Zero hours contracts update

There has been press coverage of these types of contracts of employment in recent months.

We recognise that, particularly in the licensed sector, that these types of contracts of employment can be useful to both employers and employees. In addition to employees on set hours per week, many clubs will need to have additional assistance during special events, to cover established employees holiday time, assist with employee sickness absence and to provide greater bar coverage during peak times of the year, such as Christmas.

These types of contracts can be of use to many employees such as university students or employees with family

commitments who like the flexibility that these contracts provide. An employee on a zero hours contract does not have to accept any work which is offered to them, which makes them useful for some casual employees who have other commitments.

Employers who have employees on a zero hours contract do not have to provide them with a minimum or set number of hours per week. Effectively, this means that the employee is available to work for the club should the club request that they work and should the employee wish to work. This can represent a saving to clubs as opposed to having to obtain agency staff or 'temp' employees to cover events or absences.

It is, however, important to note that employees on zero hours contracts are still entitled to the normal employment rights, notably that they will accrue holiday time for the hours which they work and that they must receive the minimum wage.

These types of contracts are unlikely to be banned in the future as most people accept that they can be useful for employers and employees in specific circumstances, the licensed sector being the key example.

It is, however, likely that in the future, restrictions may be placed on these contracts to



prevent exclusivity agreements being used (*stopping an employee on a zero hours contract working for another employee*) and that a code of practice regarding fair use of this contract will have to be abided to by employers.

We will continue to update clubs on any legislation changes which concern zero hour contracts.

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Standardised tobacco packaging to be introduced

Northern Ireland will be included in UK-wide regulations on standardised packaging to be laid within the current Parliament.

Health Minister, Jim Wells, said, "Smoking remains the single greatest cause of preventable illness and premature death in Northern Ireland.

Half of all smokers will be killed by their use of tobacco products. Branding on cigarette packets provides one of the last opportunities for tobacco companies to promote their products with evidence showing that young people are more receptive to this type of advertising than adults.

Standardised packaging will require all cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco for retail sale to meet certain conditions including:

- a standard colour (dull brown on the outside and white on the inside);
- all text on the packaging, including brand name and variant, to be in a standard typeface;
- no branding, advertising or promotion on the pack (except the use of the brand name).

It is intended that the regulations will come into force in May 2016 to coincide with wider tobacco control measures being introduced under the European Tobacco Products Directive.

Questions & Answers

Q. Now that our club's online, I want to brush up on Internet security. Can you help?

A. 1. Make a safe password: Have a secure and unique password for each online account you have such as financial services, retail services and email. Use a combination of lower and upper case letters as well as numbers and change your passwords on a regular basis. 2. If in doubt, don't click: Never open emails, links or attachments received from people you don't know. If an email seems suspicious, contact the relevant organisation and don't give out personal details. No reputable business will ever ask for confirmation of details by email. 3. Be smart with your smartphone: Be aware of the information stored on your phone that can be accessed without a proper password, including information in emails. Also, be careful, and remember that public networks and open Wi-Fi hotspots are riskier than private networks. 4. Don't be too sociable: Be sensible about how much information you share on social networks. If you wouldn't say it in public, don't say it in social media. 5. Keep an eye on your credit: One of the first ways people notice that they are a victim of online ID fraud is when there is a sudden

change to their credit report. Keep an eye on this and your bank statement, particularly for small, unexplained transactions which could be a fraudster testing the water. 6. Know where your details go: Trying to gain control over your online identity following a fraudster's attack can be an endless task. Once your details have been compromised initially they can then be bought and re-sold countless times with dozens of fraudsters using them internationally. Keep track of where your details appear online with services like Experian's web monitoring tool.

Q. A firm has come to our club offering to install a satellite TV system that will allow us to show Premier League football on Saturday afternoons at 3pm. Is this illegal?

A. The Federation receive enquiries on this subject regularly and the answer is always the same, the only legitimate way that clubs, pubs, and other commercial premises in the UK may broadcast Barclays Premier League matches is through a commercial subscription to one or both of the Premier League's authorised UK broadcasters, Sky and BT.

Neither UK broadcaster is authorised to televise 3pm kick-offs on a Saturday afternoon as these fall within the FA's "Closed Period", under UEFA Article 48, which is primarily designed to protect match attendances (both at a professional and amateur level) and promote grass-roots participation in football. Therefore, no commercial premises in the UK is authorised to show Barclays Premier League matches kicking-off on a Saturday at 3pm.

The Premier League is aware that a number of commercial

premises seek to use unauthorised foreign viewing systems and illegal websites to avoid paying for legitimate commercial subscriptions and/or to show matches kicking-off during the Closed Period. Any commercial premises undertaking this kind of activity is infringing the Premier League's copyright.

A Premier League spokesman has informed us, "We take a strong and active approach towards the enforcement of our copyright and continue to pursue criminal and civil court actions, both against the commercial premises that are breaching our copyright and against those who supply unauthorised viewing systems to facilitate such breaches".

Q. An employee regularly takes smoking breaks throughout his shift, leaving the bar unmanned in some instances. Is he legally allowed to take frequent smoking breaks?

A. There is no additional legislation for smokers. Smokers, like all employees, are entitled to minimum breaks of twenty minutes every six hours. Under the Working Time Regulations, all employees aged 18 or over, should be offered a minimum 20-minute break for shifts lasting more than six hours. Breaks for smokers are at your discretion, legally there is no need to offer a smoker any more than one 20 minute break for every six hours of work. Breaks should not be taken at the beginning or end of a six hour shift.

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Diageo announces global commitment to provide nutrition and alcohol content information per beverage alcohol serving

Diageo has recently announced its commitment to provide consumers around the world with alcohol content and nutrition information per typical serve - a first for any alcohol company.

The intention is to provide this information through Diageo's responsible drinking website DRINKiQ.com (www.DRINKiQ.com) and/or on-pack in a majority of Diageo's markets subject to local regulatory approval, as soon as practicable.

Ivan Menezes, Chief Executive, Diageo said, "Diageo puts the consumer at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to ensuring our consumers have the best possible information from which to make informed choices about our products: this includes alcohol content and nutrition information per typical serve. Currently, there is no obligation to provide such information in markets worldwide, but we know that consumers are increasingly discerning about what's

in their glass. We want to provide alcohol and nutrition information that consumers can quickly understand, instead of expecting them to do the maths."

Providing information on the amount of alcohol per serve helps consumers understand how much they are drinking. This could help reduce the misuse of alcohol - a goal shared by regulators, consumer organisations, health professionals and alcohol companies alike.

Diageo will work with regulators around the world to agree the format of voluntary labels which provide information on alcohol content and nutrition per typical serve. In the United States, Diageo has gained regulatory approval for a voluntary "serving facts" panel for alcohol drinks that includes this nutrition and alcohol per serve information.

In the European Union, alcohol drinks are currently exempt from providing nutrition information on labels, but

other foodstuffs are required to do so per 100ml. The 100ml basis on its own does not reflect the reality of the way drinkers consume alcohol, and is therefore misleading. Diageo believes that consumer information for alcohol is best provided per typical serve, so that consumers can understand the alcohol and nutrition content of serves of different drinks, which vary in size across beer, wine and spirits. To this end, Diageo will work with the EU to establish a standard alcohol unit across the 28 Member States to provide an effective way of communicating alcohol content to consumers.

Ian Duncan, MEP for Scotland and Member of the European

Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee, commented, "The announcement from Diageo is a fine example of their commitment to giving consumers the information that they need to make sensible decisions about alcohol. Providing both the nutrition and alcohol content of alcohol drinks, in an easy to understand 'per serving' format, is a major improvement on the confusing current system, where there are different measurements of alcohol units across the EU.

"This is a hugely positive step and one that the European Commission should reflect on, as it considers how to tackle harmful drinking"

WKD teams up with TOWIE: Take Two

WKD has extended its broadcast sponsorship deal with the award-winning TV phenomenon The Only Way Is Essex.

Northern Ireland's biggest-selling WKD first teamed up with TOWIE for a three-series sponsorship deal last year, and WKD is now embarking on a new agreement which spans sponsorship across broadcast, online and mobile platforms.

Debs Carter, SHS Marketing



Director said, "We are delighted to continue our involvement with The Only Way Is Essex.

It's a fantastic fit for WKD consumers and once again highlights WKD's commitment to activities with strong consumer appeal."

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LOOK ON THE  HARP SIDE



New premium crafted lager unveiled at St. James's Gate



Pictured announcing the release of Hop House 13 are Guinness brewers, Fedora Heavey (left), Peter Simpson, and Luis Ortega Pic. Robbie Reynolds

In February, Guinness brewers were proud to announce the release of Hop House 13 Lager, the latest beer from The Brewers Project at St. James's Gate.

Named after an early 1900's hop store building at St. James's Gate where hops are still stored, Hop House 13 is a double-hopped lager made with Irish barley and aromatic hops and continues the 256 years of heritage and brewing excellence at St. James's Gate.

Hop House 13 Lager is now available exclusively on draught from selected outlets across the island of Ireland.

Guinness brewer, Peter Simpson, who led the development of Hop House 13 said, "I personally enjoy more flavoursome beers, so I wanted to make a lager with lots of character and flavour. After some months of exploring different recipes and collaborating with other brewers at St. James's Gate, we created Hop House 13."

Hop House 13 is a distinctive golden lager that is brewed with Guinness yeast, Irish barley and the best of hops from both Australia and USA - Galaxy, Topaz, (AUS) and Mosaic (USA). It has a sweet fruity aroma, with hints of Apricot and Peach, and subtle malt notes breaking through. On taste, Hop House 13 is full flavoured while still being crisp and hoppy (*but not bitter*) with a refreshing clean finish.

Hop House 13 Lager continues the journey that started last September when Guinness

celebrated the quality and craft of brewing and its pursuit of more at St. James's Gate, with the launch of The Brewers Project. The Brewers Project is about a group of enterprising brewers who are on a quest to explore new recipes, reinterpret old ones and collaborate freely to bring exciting beers to life.

The new lager becomes the third release from The Brewers Project, joining Dublin Porter and West Indies Porter, both of which were reinterpretations of original recipes from the centuries old brewers' diaries of St. James's Gate.

"There is huge curiosity, interest and demand for new beers among Irish drinkers nowadays and our brewers at the Pilot Brewery are excited to be playing their part in this beer renaissance," said Head of Innovation for Guinness, Nick Curtis-Davis. "We believe Hop House 13 will appeal to mainstream lager drinkers who are looking for beer with more taste and more character but without compromising on the refreshing taste that lager offers. Our latest beer embodies our passion for brewing, quality and innovation; values that have been at the heart of the Guinness story for over 250 years."

Nick Curtis-Davis continued, "We have a lot more beer to make. We are only 256 years into a 9000 year lease at St. James's Gate Brewery and Irish drinkers can look forward to the introduction of more new and interesting beers from The Brewers Project at St. James's Gate in the future."

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Tennent's team up with Tourism NI

Tourism NI has announced Tennent's NI as overall sponsor of this year's Northern Ireland Tourism Awards.

Following an overwhelming response, eight top quality entries were shortlisted for the best event or festival category. Given the growing importance of events in supporting the tourism industry, and the widespread engagement of the Northern Ireland public with major events here, Tourism NI encouraged the public to cast votes to decide the winner of this particular category.

Regarded as one of the main highlights in the tourism calendar, the awards have attracted Tennent's NI as title sponsor for the first time this year.

Kathryn Thomson, Chief Operating Officer, Tourism NI, said, "Over the past five years events and festivals have helped to transform our tourism landscape, and Northern Ireland continues to successfully position itself as the home of great events. The Northern Ireland public have really got behind events such as the Giro d'Italia and the Irish Open and so we want them to help us make the tough decision to choose an award winner given the calibre of entries".

"I also welcome Tennent's NI as title sponsor for 2015 and we look forward to taking the awards to even greater levels this year with their support."

Brian Beattie, Marketing Director for Tennent's NI, said, "We are thrilled to be supporting Tourism NI with these awards which play such an important role in encouraging and rewarding excellence in the sector. We have a fantastic industry here and those who excel deserve their opportunity to shine at the fabulous gala awards ceremony. And I know that the promotional benefits of a win will last long after that glittering evening".

"I am particularly looking forward to presenting the awards for Outstanding Contribution to Tourism and Extra Mile Award for Customer Service. At Tennent's NI we strongly believe that striving for excellence in customer service and delivering quality products are the pillars of success for any business. As a leading Northern Ireland drinks company, working closely with the hospitality sector, we are well aware of the hard work and passion which must combine in order to consistently deliver first-class produce, service and events - and in Northern Ireland there is no shortage of passion or hard work."



Kathryn Thomson, Tourism NI with Brian Beattie, Tennent's NI.



This year's Tennent's Vital line-up is shaping up to be a musical collective, with long-time collaborators Calvin Harris and Ellie Goulding having worked with the rest of the bill throughout their careers.

Sarah Shimmons, Beer Marketing Manager for Tennent's NI, said, "We're thrilled to announce the first acts for Tennent's Vital 2015, and it's shaping up to be an exciting line-up! Calvin Harris is undoubtedly one of the biggest and most in-demand DJs in the world, with an incredible live show and back catalogue. Joining the bill on Saturday

29th August are Ellie Goulding, John Newman, Disciples and BURNS.

"Since its return in 2011, Tennent's Vital has sealed its place as the highlight of Northern Ireland's music calendar and we're delighted that our partners at MCD have secured another huge international act with a brilliant supporting line-up."

Tickets for Saturday 29th August, headlined by Calvin Harris and featuring Ellie Goulding, John Newman, Disciples and BURNS, are available www.ticketmaster.ie

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Clonmel 1650 is on top of the world

A major international award has set the seal of success on Clonmel 1650, the new Pilsner-style draught Lager brewed in Clonmel and launched across Ireland last summer by Tennent's NI.

The latest addition to the company portfolio is a determined mark of the company's commitment to developing characterful, innovative beers and ciders, based on heritage and authenticity. Recently that confidence was rewarded with an accolade in The International Brewing Awards, with Clonmel 1650 winning the International Keg Lager Gold Medal.

The annual Awards, first established in 1886, are amongst the most prestigious in the industry. This year a panel of forty-three of the world's leading judges, in conclave at the National Brewery Centre in Burton-upon-Trent, assessed close to 1,000 beers and ciders submitted from 50 countries.

Chair of judges, Bill Taylor, said, "One of the strengths of the International Brewing Awards has always been its ability to accommodate a wide range of beer styles and this year we have seen even more diversity in the entries. The structure of the competition, with broad, style-based categories, means that there is a place for every beer and cider and all have an equal chance of winning a medal or even a trophy.

"The standard of entries this year was again extremely high and our judging panel put in long hours tasting and debating the merits of the beers and

ciders, to arrive at a consensus on the 100+ medal winners. Brewers and cider makers who entered this competition can be confident that their product received quality consideration from our judges."

The Awards are unique in requiring that all judges are currently working as brewers or cider makers, a distinction not lost on those who have sufficient faith in their products to enter the arena. Sarah Shimmons, Beer Marketing Manager for Tennent's NI explains, "It is certainly daunting to be judged by your industry peers, but it is enormously gratifying to earn recognition from the leading figures 'at the coal face' and we are all extremely proud to have received a gold medal accolade in The International Brewing Awards."

Magners' hometown of Clonmel is, famously, the epicentre of great brewing in Ireland so, when it launches a new product, the industry sits up and takes notice. Last year, when it developed a new Pilsner-style Lager for the modern consumer and named it Clonmel 1650 in recognition of its celebrated roots, expectations were high. Sarah says, "We are justly renowned for innovation, coupled with quality, both of



Clonmel 1650 is on Top of the World... Jeff Tosh, Sales Director for Tennent's NI, and Sarah Shimmons, Beer Marketing Manager, are pictured celebrating winning an International Keg Lager Gold Medal in The International Brewing Awards, which took place recently in the National Brewery Centre in Burton-upon-Trent.

which are supremely evident in Clonmel 1650 which comes with a fine pedigree and heritage. Consumers have responded with enthusiasm, welcoming a locally brewed alternative to the plethora of foreign beers which are currently so prevalent in the Irish marketplace. At 4.3 ABV, Clonmel 1650 is a well-balanced and medium-bodied lager which delivers the key attributes expected from a Pilsner, but with a particularly memorable taste which hovers between 'slightly fruity', 'estery' and 'subtly hoppy'.

'Right from the pulling of the first great golden pint, Clonmel

1650 has been a winner with consumers who appreciate authenticity and, quite simply, want to enjoy a great pint in their local. Now they have the added assurance that their favourite Lager is one of the best in the world in its category."



Cancer Focus NI cookbook wins top award

Cancer Focus NI's new Well Being Cookbook for cancer patients has come top in the Northern Ireland heat of the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook awards. The unique cookbook has also been shortlisted for the Best Health Book in the World and Best Charity Book in the World categories.

The Well Being Cookbook was written by former TV chef Jeanne Rankin and Cancer Focus NI staff members Deirdre Conlon and Niamh McDaid. It is packed with need-to-know tips to help cancer patients during treatment, with their recovery and to help them stay well in the future, and is also great for anyone who just wants to stay healthy.

Deirdre Conlon, Care Services Manager, Cancer Focus NI, said, "We are delighted to have won the Northern Ireland section of this competition and we're very excited that our book is going forward for the Gourmand world cookbook awards. Our aim was to write a book that would encourage cancer patients to try out simple recipes with tasty ingredients when they are feeling unwell. There are recipes for those who find it hard to swallow, spicy food for those who have lost their palate due to their cancer treatment, and energy boosting recipes."

The cookbook contains useful tips on nutrition, food labelling, food safety and store cupboard basics. Jeanne, who is a yoga



Pictured is - Niamh McDaid (left) and Deirdre Conlon (right), from the charity, along with former TV chef Jeanne Rankin.

specialist, has also created a special section on breathing and relaxation techniques to help calm the mind, create an inner peace and de-stress the body.

To get your copy of the Cookbook, go to the online shop at www.cancerfocusni.org, email care@cancerfocusni.org or call 028 9066 3281.

Kosy Club fundraisers



Pictured holding their letters of thanks from the respective good causes are: Molly Shilling, Beatrice Rainey, Violet Sloan and Roslyn Lemon. Also mentioned is Mrs Lenny Linster, who unfortunately couldn't attend.

The Kosy Club's, Molly Shilling, collects donations from club members every Saturday and Tuesday evening, with the proceeds donated to three good causes. The ladies pictured are members

of the club and assist Molly. This year, there has been a total of £3,000 raised with £1,000 being donated to the following: NI Children's Hospice, Edgecumbe and Tor Bank School.

Free breast screening

Action Cancer breast cancer Ambassadors; Dorothy McAlinden, Catherine Abernethy, Mary Allen and Fionnuala O'Neill encouraging women to book a breast screening appointment with Action Cancer.



Free screening is on offer at Action Cancer House in Belfast and on board the charity's Big Bus, which travel to 220 locations throughout Northern

Ireland every year. Women aged 40-49 and 70 plus can book an appointment by calling 028 9080 3344 or online at www.actioncancer.org

UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award Winners



February UGAAWA Merit Award winner, Gerard Walsh (extreme right front row) celebrates with his family. (Front) Gerard's father, Gerard Snr and his sister, Fiónnuala. (Back) Ssiter Roisin; his mother, Angela; and uncle, Manuel.

Picture by John McIlwaine.

The highlight of February was, undoubtedly, O'Donovan Rossa's tremendous victory in the AIB All-Ireland Club IHC final when the Belfast boys defeated Kilburn Gaels by 1-9 to 2-3, at Croke Park. It was a great result for the Antrim champions with many of the winning players standing out.

None more so however, than teenage half-back Gerard Walsh who covered acres of ground in his pursuit of victory as he tracked his opponent all over the pitch and also contributed three points to Rossa's winning total - the actual margin of victory.

"I was wearing No. 5 on my back but my instructions were to follow my man wherever he went," reveals schoolboy Gerard (17) who thought that his dad was "winding him up" when he delivered the news that Gerard had won the UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award.

"When I came home from school and was told the news, I didn't believe it," said Gerard. "I'm overwhelmed. It is a nice award to win and, along with winning the All-Ireland, it gives me a great boost to keep on training and playing."

Gerard, who has played minor football and hurling with Antrim, and has won U18 championship medals with his club in both codes, as well as other underage awards, joins three other 17-year-olds as the youngest winners of the UGAAWA monthly honour.

"Being among the youngest to win the award makes it even more special," says the 'A' Level student, who is studying four sports related subjects with a view to qualifying for a sports studies degree at the University of Ulster.

To win the award, Gerard Walsh overcame challenges

from Slaughtneil midfielder Patsy Bradley, who was 'man-of-the-match' in the All-Ireland SFC semi-final, and Darren McCurry, who turned in some good performances with Tyrone in the Alliance NFL.

It is now upwards and onwards for the winner and his club colleagues, as Rossa return to senior hurling ranks and Gerard is looking forward to mixing it with the likes of Ballycastle and Dunloy in the Senior Hurling Championship.

"That will show us just how far we have come. It will be a good yardstick for us," he says.

The presentation was made at the Rossa Complex in Belfast with Gerard receiving a Belleek Living engraved vase, specially designed silver cuff links from Carlingford Design House and training gear from O'Neill International Sports. He will also receive two tickets and overnight accommodation for the UGAAWA 27th annual banquet, in Bundoran, later this year.

Aogán Ó Fearghail takes over as GAA President



The new GAA President, Aogán Ó Fearghail (right) pictured with the outgoing President, Liam Ó Néill.

Drumgoon and Cavan native Aogán Ó Fearghail has officially succeeded Liam Ó Néill as Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, taking on the role formally at the end of the GAA's Annual Congress, held recently in Cavan.

Ó Fearghail made history last year by becoming the first man from Cavan to be elected to the office of GAA President. He is the first man to be elected to the role from the province of Ulster since Monaghan native Seán McCague, who served from 2000-2003.

Ó Fearghail is a native of Maudabawn, a rural area close to the town of Cootehill in County Cavan. His club is Drumgoon Éire Óg, the first ever winners of the All-Ireland Junior Club Football Championship. He is the Principal of Dernakesh National School, of which he himself is a former pupil.

He is married to Frances and they have four children. His parents Aidan and Katie both live in Maudabawn and they will soon celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary.

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Crusaders make it a 'Double'



Stephen Baxter is the BT Sport Manager of the Month for February, as selected by the Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association.

It is Stephen's second monthly award in a row and comes after a month when Crusaders maintained a 100% record, extended their lead at the top of the Premiership and reached the semi-finals of the Irish Cup.

Crusaders winger, Gavin Whyte, was named BT Sport Player of the Month for February after a spectacular month in which he scored his first ever senior hat-trick in a 7-3 win against Glenavon. Unfortunately Gavin isn't pictured as he was unable to attend the award presentation.



Pictured with Stephen Baxter, are Clare O'Neill of BT Sport and Stephen Looney of the NIFWA.

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It wasn't only Crusaders who made it two wins on the trot, as Harland & Wolff Welders followed up David Rainey's award in January, by having Mark Magennis named as the Championship Player of the Month for February.

Mark enjoyed a couple of Man of the Match performances in a very competitive month for

the East Belfast side with their only defeat coming in the last moments of their Irish Cup tie against Premier League outfit Ballymena United.

Finally, Ballymena United's David Cushley won the BT Sport Goal of the Month award from the NIFWA for his spectacular second goal against Cliftonville in the Irish Cup.



GREAT SPORTING EVENTS

NO. 75

1990

Piggott Wins Breeders Cup



Legendary flat jockey, Lester Piggott.

Legendary British Jockey Lester Piggott won the Breeders Cup Mile in 1990 at New York's Belmont Park, in what is widely considered to be one of the all-time great races. It was all the more remarkable as Piggott's triumph came just 12 days after he was released from prison following a one-year sentence for tax irregularities. Piggott, who had retired from the sport in 1985, was aged 55 at the time.

The jockey earned a ride on Royal Academy after the horse's regular partner, John Reid, was injured in a race at Longchamp. Piggott had previous success with the colt's handler, the renowned Vincent O'Brien, in the 1960s

and 1970s. Royal Academy had already been successful in the July Cup at Newmarket earlier in the season, although there were doubts over his temperament after his refusal to enter the stalls for the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot.

The pair made a poor start to the race, settling towards the rear of the field with a quarter of a mile to go. Piggott, however, in time-honoured fashion, timed his charge to perfection, moving to the outside in the straight to win by a neck.

Douglas Stuns Tyson

It is said that bookmakers are never wrong, but on 11th February 1990 they were miles wide of the mark as James 'Buster' Douglas caused one of the biggest upsets in sporting history. His defeat of the fearsome Mike Tyson in 10 rounds ensured he became one of the most surprising world heavyweight champions in boxing history.

Rated at odds of 42/1 by some - extreme for any two-horse race - many bookmakers were refusing to give a price as it was deemed to



Buster Douglas lands a thunderous left hand to put Tyson on the canvas for the first time in his career.

be so one-sided. But, as every old pro knows, the danger of a heavy puncher is ever present. In context, Tyson was the most feared man on the planet. Crowned the youngest champion in history at 21 years old, Tyson had cleared out the generation of spent former champions doing the rounds, to hail a new generation of lean, tough, athletic boxers. He was an awesome fighting machine.

The signs were there early in the fight, as Douglas used his reach to stay away from the dangerous champion and picked him off with jabs. In the eighth round, Tyson floored Douglas, but the bell rang before Tyson could follow up his success.

In the tenth round, a devastating uppercut, followed by two left-right combos from Douglas, KO'd Tyson for the first time in his boxing career and the world had a new heavyweight champion. Sports Illustrated magazine captured the moment perfectly with their front-cover headline, 'Rocky Lives!'

Also this year...

Football - West Germany won the Football World Cup in Rome, defeating defending champion Argentina 1-0 in the final.

Cycling - Defending Tour de France champion, Greg LeMond, won the last of his three titles. LeMond had the distinction of winning the 1990 Tour without taking any of the individual stages and remains the last rider to win it while wearing the world champion jersey.

Darts - Phil Taylor won the first of his world titles, by defeating Eric Bristow 6-1. Although he is now known as 'The Power', his nickname in the early 1990s was 'The Crafty Potter', reflecting his status as the protégé of Eric Bristow (who was nicknamed "The Crafty Cockney").

Golf - Nick Faldo won the US Masters for the second year in a row, the first to do this since Jack Nicklaus in 1965-66. Later in the year he won the Open at St Andrews, becoming the first player to win two majors in the same year since Tom Watson in 1982.



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