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Club Review

VOLUME 29 - Issue 3, 2016

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Proximo Spirits invite Executive committee to Bushmills Distillery

The Bushmills Distillery in County Antrim provided a perfect setting for the Federation to see the production of the world famous brand.

It has been some years now since the Federation committee last visited the distillery, so it was appropriate that we again take a photograph under the famous sign. Not surprisingly, although a lot has changed in respect to the Federation members, what has not changed however is the beautiful setting in which the distillery is located.

New owners, Proximo, extended the invitation to visit the world famous distillery, and Manager Patrick Morgan made us all very welcome, joining us for lunch in the excellent on-site dining facilities.

Following a tour, on which we were joined by Master Distiller Colum Egan, we were invited to a tasting of the various whiskeys produced by Bushmills. As one would expect, the atmosphere was outstanding, and with Jim O'Brien in attendance, the years were rolled back to the numerous past times we enjoyed each other's company.

Time passes so quickly, but one thing is certain, and that is the passing of time has added to the reputation and processes at Bushmills, resulting in the production of Irish Whiskey of the highest quality.



The executive committee will meet again on Tuesday 17th May 2016 for the monthly committee meeting.

Naturally the outcome of the recent election will be on the agenda, particularly in respect to who the new ministers are likely to be.

Also of interest will be the potential for the amendments to the licensing legislation to become law. It is common knowledge that they were granted Royal Assent in 2014, so let's hope matters progress rather more quickly now.

(2nd left) Proximo Spirits, Senior Sales Manager NI, Patrick Morgan, and Master Distiller, Colum Egan (far right), pictured with the Federation executive committee at their recent visit to the world famous Bushmills Distillery in County Antrim.

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Whitehouse Working Mens Club continue investment programme



The Whitehouse Working Mens Club management committee and staff, pictured with Ken Nelson of Classic Interiors, who completed the refurbishment of the club restaurant facility.

Whitehouse Workingmen's Club, affectionately known as the 'Workies', has been a part of the local landscape since 1923 when it was established as a community centre. The club was established for the people of Whitehouse, however its popularity increased so much over the years that expansion was essential. Hence, when the Melville Inn became available in 1986 it was purchased to provide the additional space and facilities for the benefit of the membership.

A strong connection with many charities is a feature of the club, with over £46,000 having been donated to the Children's Hospice alone, over recent years.

The recently completed refurbishment of the club by Classic Interiors, with upholstery by First Choice Upholstery, continues to enhance the already excellent facilities of this registered Federation flagship member club.

Ken Nelson of Classic Interiors met Federation P.R.O., Harry Beckinsale, at the club recently to show him around the new facility, in the company of the chairman and members of the committee.

The club are to be complimented for this investment, during what continues to be a difficult time for the club sector.

David Ervine remembered at the Raven Club

On Saturday 23rd April friends and colleagues of the late David Ervine, past Chairman of the Raven Social Club in East Belfast, presented a cheque for £3,100 to Jan Harvey of Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke (NICHHS).

Every year since his untimely death in 2007, the Raven Social Club members and friends organise a fundraising night and a sponsored walk to raise money for NICHHS in memory of David Ervine. Club Chairman, Stevie Beattie, paid tribute to the efforts of all those involved, "It never ceases to amaze me how our members turn out every year in memory

of our past chairman and friend David Ervine. Since our first fundraiser in 2008 we have raised almost £24,000 for NI Chest Heart and Stroke and it is comforting to know that our efforts go some way to help preventing further deaths from these causes. We miss David, however, we are delighted to be able to remember him in this way."

Presenting the cheque, David's widow, Jeanette Ervine, said, "It is wonderful of the Raven Club to remember David in this way. Every year they turn out to raise funds and I want to thank them very much for all that they do. As a family we miss

him terribly and are grateful to the Raven Club for continuing to remember David in this way."

Jan Harvey thanked the Chairman Stevie Beattie and the members and friends of the club, commenting, "The Raven Social Club has raised a tremendous amount over the last 8 years and these much-needed funds will help contribute to our research aimed at preventing deaths from heart disease."



(L-R front) Cllr John Kyle; Jan Harvey, Chest Heart & Stroke; Mrs Jeanette Ervine; Mrs Kate Nelson; Dawn Purvis. (L-R back) Mr Brian Nelson; Mr Stephen Beattie, Chairman of the Raven Social Club.

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PRS for Music brings music to life in Belfast

PRS for Music hosted activations in Belfast in early May to celebrate the importance of live music in the city.

Partnering with grass roots organisation Small Business Saturday, PRS for Music hosted a workshop at live music centre Oh Yeah discussing the importance and value of live music in key venues and around the city.

The panel was chaired by Generator's Mark Gordon with the panel comprising: Paul Dickson, Laverys Kerrie Malone, Empire Michael Stewart, Bar Czar Aidie McClay, Kremlin

The workshop emphasised the importance of live music, not

only for customers but for staff, with participants discussing key learnings, issues and thoughts about the live music offer in their venues and the city as a whole. The workshop was watched by a live audience as well as 150 people through Periscope.

Following on from the workshop was a live music showcase, PRS for Music Presents, featuring three of northern Ireland's most prominent and exciting acts: Katharine Philippa, The Clameens and Jealous of the Birds, also held at Oh Yeah.

PRS for Music also visited some of the key venues in Belfast meeting the owners and managers to talk about the

impact of live music in their venues. The activation generated a strong press interest with PRS for Music attaining coverage in The Sunday World, The Irish News, Belfast Telegraph, UTE, State.ie alongside radio interviews on Cool FM, Belfast 89FM and U105FM.

All the Belfast activations, workshop, case studies, and the live PRS for Music Presents can be



(Far left) Mark Gordon hosts the workshop at Belfast's Oh Yeah Centre, discussing the importance of live music.

viewed at: www.prsformusic.com/customerportal



Cancer Focus NI on the ball with Euro 2016 sweepstake



Former Northern Ireland World Cup star Billy Hamilton signs up for the Cancer Focus NI Sweepstake.

Cancer Focus NI is organising a number of events during June, Men's Health Month, to raise cash to keep its Man Van on the road. The Man Van brings vital health checks and lifesaving messages to men at community venues, sports clubs, gyms, leisure centres and workplaces all over Northern Ireland.

Billy, a veteran of two World Cups, said, "This is the perfect fundraiser for groups, clubs, friends and families who want to join in Euro 2016 fever here in Northern Ireland.

"The Cancer Focus NI sweepstake is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved in the tournament while also raising much-needed funds for an excellent cause. You don't need to be a football or sports fanatic to take part,

but with the help of family and friends you can support Cancer Focus NI and help kick cancer out of Northern Ireland."

Eoin Treanor, Community Fundraiser for Cancer Focus NI, said, "The Cancer Focus NI Man Van aims to encourage men to adopt better lifestyles, helping to lower the risk of cancer. Men who come aboard our Man Van can have their body composition and measurements assessed, blood pressure and blood glucose checked, and one-to-one health awareness advice."

To get a sweepstake kit simply email: fundraising@cancerfocusni.org, call 028 9066 3281 or visit www.cancerfocusni.org. If you'd like to help fundraise or volunteer for Cancer Focus NI please get in touch.

Ulster Sports Club presentation



(1st & 2nd left) Francis McKee, David Wilkinson and (1st right) Stephen Watson, Ulster Sports Club, pictured with Vivienne McAloney and B.J. Beck from MS charity RAMS. The Ulster Sports Club raised a fantastic £2,000 at a recent fundraising event held at the Belfast club.

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Preventing pay-related gender discrimination

Sexism, or sex discrimination, can take many forms in the workplace. The most obvious kind, direct discrimination, occurs when a member of one sex is treated less favourably than a member of the other sex, and the reason for the treatment is on account of their gender. Indirect discrimination refers to the situation where a rule (a 'provision, criterion or practice') is applied equally to everyone but that rule puts or would put, for example, a man at a particular disadvantage compared with a woman.

Subjecting a man or woman to a detriment because (s)he has done something, or it is believed (s)he has or may do something with reference to discrimination

legislation is classed as 'victimisation', and 'harassment' is unwanted conduct related to a person's sex which has the purpose of violating dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

The legislation covering equal pay relates to all the terms under which employees of both sexes work, not just to their hourly rate. In general, the legislation requires employers to ensure that no term of the contract is less favourable to one sex than the other. The only defence to inequality is the existence of a material factor other than the difference of sex and which does not involve indirect sex discrimination. In

practical terms, the defence is mainly confined to such things as justifiable service increments, the different geographical location of two similar jobs or the time the work is carried out (eg night shift working).

To keep on top of the situation, you should conduct a brief assessment of the pay received by your staff and address any differences in pay. There may be completely acceptable reasons for any gender difference but it is important to understand why there is a gap.

The following pointers should be followed to ensure there is no unacceptable gender pay gap:

- Ensure comprehensive records of pay are kept; employers with 250 or more employees will soon need to publish details on average pay received by their male employees in comparison with their female employees. Maintaining readily accessible

data will make this task easier. Employers who do not meet this trigger should nevertheless keep good records of pay information in the event that it is questioned.

- Ensure pay/opportunities are based on merit. Undertake recruitment and promotion based on who is best for the job and don't be influenced by unsubstantiated perceptions.

- Don't assume that because roles are different, that they cannot be deemed as 'like work'. Where male and female employees perform 'like work', there should not be a difference in pay that is not attributable to a material factor. 'Like work' does not need to be identical work.

- You cannot enforce blanket bans on pay related conversations. An instruction to your employees not to discuss their pay with each other, where the intention of the conversation is to discover whether pay inequality exists, is unenforceable.

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Questions & Answers

Q. Our Club Rules are quite old and still provide for a large number of Officers and Committee Members to be elected each year. This has left us in the situation where there is rarely a competitive contest for Committee elections since it is difficult to fill all the positions. Is it time to revise the Committee structure?

A. This is a good question and I think it is one that most Clubs need to address. Many Clubs do find it difficult to recruit a full Committee and a reduction in Committee numbers may assist this situation.

The Clubs Order stipulates a minimum of Secretary, Treasurer and three committee persons. If insufficient members volunteer to be elected then the committee is allowed to co-opt members into any vacancies, who must then stand for election the following year. I would suggest that the Committee considers revising the Committee structure in the following way: President, Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee Members x 8. Total: Four Officers and Eight Committee Members giving a total of 12 elected positions.

Typically Committees tend to range from between six to nine Committee Members plus the elected Officers. Officers are normally elected on either a

yearly or two yearly term of Office with Committee Members elected for a two year or three year term. You may also wish to reduce the Committee quorum requirement to four. All these changes will need to be approved by the Club's Members at a Special General Meeting as they are rule revisions. I do think it can be beneficial to have a good small Committee and a contest for Members who wish to be part of the Committee rather than a large Committee whom anyone can automatically be elected to due to a shortage of competing candidates.

Q. When an agenda item for the AGM is proposed, does the proposer and seconder have to be present at the meeting in order for the agenda item to be discussed and voted upon?

A. I confirm that the actual Proposer and the Seconder of the motion do not have to be present at the meeting but somebody must propose the motion in their absence and it needs to be seconded in order for a discussion and voting to take place.

Q. The Committee considers that it has reason to invite a Member to attend a disciplinary meeting to answer allegations which have been made against them. Can you confirm the correct procedure that we should follow? We are conscious of getting the disciplinary procedure correct.

A. This is a common question and it is important to follow the correct disciplinary procedure. Failure to follow the correct procedure could result in any disciplinary decision made becoming invalid.

The Committee cannot expel or suspend a member from the Club without first inviting

them to a Committee meeting. A suspension or permanent expulsion can only take place once a disciplinary meeting has been held. The Committee can also only suspend a Member for a maximum of twelve months.

If the Committee are of the opinion that this individual's behaviour has either broken specific Club Rules/Bye-Laws or could be judged to be prejudicial to the Conservative cause or the interests of the Club then they can summon this member to appear before the Committee. The Committee should inform them of the allegations that have been made against when asking them to attend the disciplinary meeting.

The Committee can also instruct this member to withdraw from the facilities of membership until he appears before the disciplinary meeting. It is normal that once the withdrawal takes place that a disciplinary meeting is held within two months and that at least seven days' notice of the meeting must be given to the member, in accordance with the Club's Rules. If this is how the Committee wishes to proceed you should write to the member and inform them that due to their conduct he has been requested to appear in front of the Committee. You should also include the precise details of the complaint and alleged conduct which has forced the Committee to summon the Member to them. The Committee should then hold the disciplinary meeting and, after reviewing any points this Member has to make in their defence, the Committee should decide if their conduct requires a suspension of membership up to one year in length, permanent expulsion from the Club by terminating their membership, or no action taken against them.

If the Committee decides to withdraw the facilities of membership from the Member until the Committee has heard the disciplinary meeting then this means that they will be unable to enter the Club until the disciplinary meeting has been heard.

Q. The present Treasurer wishes to step down with immediate effect but would like to continue as a Committee Member. We would like to offer the post of Treasurer to the Member who came second at the last election ballot who is currently serving as a Committee Member. Can these Members effectively 'swap' positions?

A. I can confirm that a resignation of the Treasurer has caused a "casual vacancy". This vacancy can be filled by the Committee who have the authority to appoint any member of the Club to take on the role and office of Treasurer. If, therefore, the Committee wish to appoint the member of the Committee (who coincidentally came second in the election for the position of Treasurer), then they are able to do this by a Committee vote and without further reference to the Club's Members. The place left on the Committee caused by this casual vacancy appointment (since the present Committee Member cannot occupy both a Committee position and the position of Treasurer) will create a further casual vacancy which can then be filled by the resigning Treasurer should this be agreeable to the Committee. I trust this is of assistance and explains why the proposed "swap" would be acceptable under the Rules by using the authority which is vested in the Committee.

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The duties of club officials

Since many Clubs have recently held elections as part of their Annual General Meetings, we have prepared a short guide to the responsibilities of Officers and Committee Members and we hope that this guide will assist newly elected Officers and Committee Members and also provide a useful reminder to established Committees. Elected officers, who include Members of the Committee, are individually and collectively responsible for ensuring that the Rules of the Club are observed. Their position is one of trust and authority and should be regarded as such. The Rules of a Club should specify the duties attached to each office.

The President

He should be a longstanding and respected Member of the Club and aware of the Club's affairs and history. He should also preside ex officio over all meetings (other than Committee meetings).

The Chairman

Clubs can be very successful when they have a body of enthusiastic and dedicated Members, for the Membership is the heart of a Club and at the head of a Club, the Chairman often holds the key to success. The importance of a hard working Chairman, together with the Secretary and Treasurer is paramount. If such a trio also has the support of a hard-working and harmonious Committee, then the Club will be doubly blessed. The records of Clubs show that many have enjoyed the benefits of devoted Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers, without whom the facilities enjoyed by their Members would not exist. Therefore, it may be recognised

that an important duty of the Members is to choose an able and reliable man or woman to represent the Club as Chairman. The Chairman presides ex officio over all Committee meetings and, in the absence of the President, those of the Club. He should be thoroughly familiar with the Rules of the Club and the procedures which govern Club meetings. He must, at all times, endeavour to maintain the dignity of his office and, by precept and example, the reputation of the Club. The Chairman should not be afraid to exercise his authority, quietly and tactfully, when occasion arises. He should work in the closest co-operation with the Secretary and Treasurer in assuring that all legal and other Club obligations are carried out. Chairmen may be elected directly i.e. by the Members in a general meeting or, if the Rules provide, indirectly by the Committee from among their own number. In the latter case, as the Members will have elected all the Members of the Committee, they will have already signified their confidence in the person who becomes Chairman. On assuming responsibilities of the post, the first obligation of a new Chairman is to become familiar with the duties it entails. It would be impossible to describe every situation and problem that might confront a Chairman, which is why the Chairman needs to maintain a cheerful and dignified presence, and to act with tact and fairness at all times. The Chairman presides over Committee meetings and, consequently, will be instrumental in securing the smooth running of the Club and the competent conduct of

business. Committee meetings have to be held at least once a month in order to settle Club policy, and to make decisions affecting the operations of the Club and its development. The Chairman's handling of these meetings will determine, above all, how Committee Members retain their commitment and interest in serving their Club. The Chairman is the vital link in creating an atmosphere that is indispensable to a successful Club. If the Chairman fails, it is possible that one of two trends, or both, will become apparent. There may be a lack of interest among Members generally, or difficulties may be experienced in obtaining nominations to fill vacancies occurring on the Committee.

Most Members learn the art of conducting meetings and running the Club, and also develop the confidence to address a wide audience at general meetings, by working within the Committee. An efficient Chairman, who holds the trust of colleagues, will do much to secure the continued success and development of the Club. It is up to the Chairman to weld the diverse characters that form a Committee into a working unit. The Chairman will be assisted in his duties if there is a code of standing orders which the Committee Members themselves have accepted and agreed upon for the proper conduct of their affairs. In conjunction with the Secretary and Treasurer, the Chairman is responsible for arranging the agenda and the priorities of the Committee. A carefully prepared agenda will help to ensure that business may be dealt with quickly. As long as all essential business is catered

for and all correspondence considered, their choice of priorities is unlikely to cause dissention within the Committee. If an agenda cannot be completed in time, it is better that the Committee should agree to adjourn to a later date to conclude the outstanding business. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should not take it upon themselves to omit items from the agenda in order to shorten the meeting. It is for the Committee to decide what they will consider for the business is theirs and needs to be dealt with. The authority of the Committee should never be usurped. However, a good Chairman will be able to influence them towards wise decisions. Patience and the avoidance of argument are the best instruments for the smooth conduct of meetings. It should go without saying that the Chairman must conduct meetings in accordance with Club Rules, standing orders and recognised Rules of procedure. This may not guarantee totally trouble-free meetings in all circumstances, but it will prevent most problems from occurring. If the occasion does occur when disorderliness develops, and the Chairman believes business cannot be satisfactorily concluded, the meeting may be adjourned to another date. In addition, a Chairman should remember that a Committee never performs the tasks which are specifically allotted to individual officers or the steward. Not only is this likely to be both confusing and a waste of the Committee's time, it can be irritating and frustrating for an intelligent body of people who have given their time to Committee work to find they

are also engaged in trying to perform duties specifically allocated elsewhere. Similarly, neither the officers nor employees should be allowed to take decisions that are the prerogative of the Committee collectively. The Chairman will fulfil the duties of chairmanship by adopting a conciliatory attitude and try to avoid riding roughshod over even the most awkward participant from the floor. A cheerful, firm, tactful and judicious person will avoid most of the possible pitfalls of chairmanship and earn grateful thanks from the Membership.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for seeing that all moneys, whether received by himself, the Secretary, the steward or any other official or employee are duly banked. He is to ensure that all debts of the Club are paid as directed by the Committee and that cheques are signed by himself and one, or more, Members of the Finance Committee, then countersigned by the Secretary. It is his duty to produce the Paying-in Book, Bank Statement, Daily Takings Book etc. at every meeting of the Committee, or whenever required.

The Secretary

It is the duty of the Secretary to keep the books, documents and papers of the Club in proper order and carefully filed. He must summon and attend all meetings and take Minutes of the proceedings. Other responsibilities may be summarised -

- Keep the register of Members up to date, with record of last payment of subscriptions
- See that the names, addresses and occupations of candidates for Membership are duly displayed on the Club notice board for the period stipulated in the Rules
- Issue notices of default to

- Members in arrears and see that names are removed from the register if subscriptions are not paid within the period stated in the Rules
- Post all notices in connection with General or Special General Meetings
- Check nominations of candidates for office and allow none to go forward which are not in order
- Comply with the requirements of the 1996 Clubs Order
- Comply with the requirements of the National Insurance Acts, Statutory Sick Pay and see that all paid employees are insured
- See that the Club is insured against liability at Common Law, for accidents occurring to Club employees, and also against fire and burglary.

The duties imposed on a Club's Secretary make the person undertaking this office the linchpin in the conduct of Club affairs. Unless the Secretary is truly competent, a Club will find that it is unable to operate effectively and in accordance with the increasingly complex legislation affecting Clubs. The Secretary acts under the superintendence, control and direction of the Committee of management and is responsible for seeing that the decisions of the Committee are conveyed to the proper quarter. The position of Secretary requires not only considerable administrative skills, but must also fulfil the vital role of providing liaison between the Membership and the Committee. The Secretary's basic functions are to ensure that the Club's clerical and organising activities are carried out, to see that all subscriptions are collected and that correspondence is dealt with. A competent Secretary should be thoroughly familiar with the Rules of his Club, so that he can advise authoritatively

when necessary. He should possess an intimate knowledge of the Licensing Act in so far as it applies to Clubs. He is the official primarily held responsible in law for seeing that its provisions are complied with. The Secretary might be made a party to any proceedings instigated against the Club for any breach of the requirements of the Clubs Order. Therefore, the Secretary must be conversant with the demands of licensing and gaming laws and of registration and other statutory duties under the Licensing, Friendly Societies, and Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. Failure to meet some of these requirements will cause the Secretary to be held personally liable. A plea that it was committed without his knowledge and, connivance would be a good defence to any proceedings taken against him personally, if it could be established. Before considering the possibilities surrounding the choice of Secretary, it must be reiterated that the Secretary, like the Chairman, requires qualities of integrity and impartiality and must be capable of commanding the respect of Members. He should be a good mixer who does not yield to the influences of pressure groups or factions within the Club, and is not suspected of favouritism. Again, he must always be aware that he is responsible to the Committee and the Members for his actions, and that his decisions must reflect the policies of the Committee. The choice of Secretary is governed by the Rules and the period of tenure is determined by them. They should be sufficiently flexible to enable Members either to elect or to appoint a Secretary, depending on their view of the post's requirements. Rules should include a provision for Clubs to choose between electing a member from their own ranks, or to appoint some

other person. Among the many reasons for Members preferring an elected Secretary is that they may feel it possible for him to cope with the work entailed on a part-time basis. Certainly, the volume of work falling to the Secretary will be a fundamental pointer in deciding whether the post should be filled by election or appointment. If the Club chooses to elect a secretary, then the election takes place in exactly the same way as for any other officer. If elected, the Secretary remains a member of the Club. He will be entitled to propose or second motions, and to speak and vote both in Committee and in General Meetings just like any other officer or Club member. Larger Clubs may consider that the demands placed on their Secretary are beyond the capacity of a voluntary officer. The appointment of a Secretary is not normally made by Members in general. The Committee makes such appointments just as they appoint other employees of the Club. Applicants may come from within the Membership or from outside. Therefore, the Rules customarily provide that where an appointed Secretary is to be preferred, the Committee will carry out the appointment. In this position he is an officer without power, except as delegated by the Committee.

Committee

It is the duty of the Committee to attend their meetings regularly. The Committee conduct the general business of the Club; are responsible for its management and control, and for seeing that the Rules are duly observed. Acting in a quasi-judicial capacity they are empowered—subject to what the Rules say—to suspend or expel offending Members, having first given them an opportunity of being heard to offer a defence.

continued on page 14

The appointment, control and dismissal of all Club employees rest solely in the hands of the Committee. The Committee is responsible for checking books kept by the Treasurer or Secretary and seeing that all takings have been duly paid into the bank. They should examine the Order Book and be satisfied that only goods authorised by them have been purchased and that accounts submitted for payment have been duly checked and verified with the Goods Received Book kept by the Steward. The Committee, realising their position of trust and authority, should rigidly observe the Rules of the Club, thus setting an example to the Members.

Confidentiality of Meetings
The confidentiality of Committee meetings is paramount to the effective management of a Club. Discussion in Committee should remain confidential between Committee Members. The Minutes of Committee meetings should merely record the motions and amendments and decisions which are agreed and, again, remain confidential. This does not mean that there are never circumstances in which the Membership ought to be informed of what takes place during Committee meetings. In all Clubs there are issues which are of immediate concern to all the Membership.

The Committee may have discussed some matter referred to it by a general meeting for consideration. In such cases, the Secretary should arrange for a suitable notice to be posted on the Club's Notice Board. The general Membership does not have a right to inspect the Committee's Minutes and no member of the Committee is entitled to inform anyone of the proceedings and deliberations of the Committee. If a Club is to be served well, then it is essential that the Committee should be free to conduct their affairs in a frank and open way. Surely, few people would serve on Committees if they knew that their views were repeated outside the confines of the Committee room and, as is so often the case, misinterpreted by being taken out of context and made to appear contrary to the original intentions. Committees are therefore entitled to insist on the confidentiality of their proceedings and the right of quasi privilege in the conduct of the affairs of the Club while, at the same time, keeping the Members informed of matters that affect them generally, but not in respect to individual Members. In conclusion, what is said in Committee should not be repeated outside the confines of a Committee meeting, and Committee Minutes should remain confidential.

Tourism 'Oscars' shortlist unveiled



(L-R) Brian Beattie, Marketing Director, Tennent's NI, pictured with Patricia Kingston, Tourism NI Events and John McGrillen, Chief Executive, Tourism NI.

Tourism NI has unveiled the shortlist of nominations for the 2016 Northern Ireland Tourism Awards in association with Tennent's NI. The sought-after awards, which recognise outstanding performers in the tourism industry, will this year be presented over twelve different categories.

Brian Beattie, Marketing Director for Tennent's NI, commented, "We are thrilled to continue our support for the Northern Ireland Tourism Awards which are recognised as a highlight of our tourism year, encouraging and rewarding excellence and highlighting the

vital importance of tourism as a major and fast-growing contributor to the Northern Ireland economy. This year we are particularly looking forward to taking the grand gala awards ceremony to Derry/Londonderry and to a night which celebrates our region's unique sociability.

"On behalf of all of everyone at Tennent's NI may I extend sincere congratulations and best wishes to all who have made it to this year's shortlist. We are very well aware of the passion and hard work which lies behind every entry and you all deserve your moment to shine."

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McGuigan Wines celebrates launch of new Founder's Series at Belfast event

Neil McGuigan, chief winemaker of McGuigan Wines, the fourth largest global wine brand in the UK, recently celebrated the launch of the new Founder's Series in Belfast with TV Presenter and Chef John Torode.

The dynamic duo treated 100 of the drinks industry's finest to the ultimate food and wine pairing experience at the Ulster Museum. Taking guests on a culinary masterclass, John and Neil matched the perfect McGuigan wine to a delectable four-course meal.

On the wine list was the McGuigan Founder's Series, this premium, limited production wine range is currently available in on and off trade outlets across Northern Ireland.

The McGuigan Founder's Series champions three of Australia's great styles and wine-making regions - Barossa Valley Shiraz, Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon and Adelaide Hills Chardonnay - which in turn pay homage to the label's founder, Brian McGuigan.

To celebrate the launch, TV Presenter and Chef John Torode has also developed bespoke recipes designed to match with each of the Founder's Series wines.

Neil McGuigan, Chief Winemaker for McGuigan Wines, said, "With the McGuigan Founder's Series we have created a trio of champion wines from three of the best wine-making regions

in Australia, and we've selected the parcels of fruit that best exhibit the wines' individuality and character of their respective regions.

"When paired with John's fantastic recipes, each of these wines truly delivers an exceptional flavour experience."

The recipes demonstrate John's ability to think outside the food and wine pairing box. The Shiraz is matched with a delicious Barbecued Lamb Cutlet and Ricotta Salad, to complement the wine's rich and heavy fruit-lead flavours. Unusually for a red wine, the Cabernet Sauvignon has been paired with a Seared Sea Bream with Spring Onion Mash Potato in a lemon Butter Sauce with capers. Finally, the Chardonnay is a perfect accompaniment to rich dishes, such as a Grilled Duck Salad with Smokey Bacon and Pea Salad.

Also featuring on the evening was a limited edition Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir Rosé, MT Rosé, crafted by the wine-maker and the chef. The Rosé steers away from the rich and intense flavours associated with Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon varieties and instead offers crisp, zesty, dry flavours produced by the Pinot Noir grape which additionally lends a beautiful cherry blossom pink colour to the wine.

Neil McGuigan, said: "It all began with an idea we had two years ago, which led us to create our first great wine together - a classic Hunter Valley Semillon. This whet our appetites to



(L-R) Neil McGuigan, Martin McCauley and John Torode raise a toast to the new Founder's Series of premium wines.

create a second instalment in the MT collaborations range, which is a delicious Pinot Noir Rosé. It's uniquely balanced to suit a broad range of dishes - perfect for a chef such as John."

John Torode added: "Neil and I took a chance with this rosé and we're thrilled with the result; the colour and flavour of the wine is superb. I'll be pairing a bottle with my Grilled Squid

with Rocket Salad recipe, which I created to match the wine."

Sourced from the cooler vineyards of the Adelaide Hills, the MT Pinot Noir Rosé is refreshing and bright, with crunchy blueberry notes on the finish.

Both the Founder's Series and The Pinot Noir Rosé, 2016, is available now to purchase.



Heverlee on the Hunt for L'Apprentice Protégés

If you think you've got what it takes to pour the perfect pint with style and panache, and can back up your performance with knowledge and expertise -- and a dash of attitude - Heverlee's new L'Apprentice challenge is for you.

The authentic premium Belgian Pilsner Lager is on the hunt to find Northern Ireland's top Heverlee perfected pour master, someone worthy of the prestigious title of 'L'Apprentice 2016'.

One hundred participants across Northern Ireland will undergo tough training in the complex art of draught management. A final twelve will be selected to take the challenge to the next level, entering into the highly competitive race to become L'Apprentice.

At stake will be an all-expenses paid trip for two to the home of Heverlee in Belgium. The winner will spend time in five star luxury, visiting some of Europe's coolest bars, (with spending money included, *bien sûr*) and enjoy a private tour of Martens Brewery in Bocholt, where Heverlee is brewed, as well as the magnificent Abbey of the Order of Premontre near Leuven, the spiritual home of Heverlee.

The Protégés, who will be nominated by participating bars and clubs, should prepare to meet the school of hard knocks as Michael Stewart, aka Le Principal and Northern Ireland's own internationally trained and respected draught master, puts the candidates through the rigorous training and selection process.

Looking forward to teaching bartenders how to perfect their Heverlee pour, Michael says, "There'll be no 'Lord Sugar-coating' this learning experience. I'm training the trade on how to appreciate one of the finest of all Belgian beers. I expect excellence from those who handle Heverlee authentic premium Belgian Lager ... and I won't rest until all my Protégés achieve perfection!"

"Technical know-how is vital, but we'll also be weaving in a little magic as the Protégés learn how to create theatre at the point of dispense and come to recognise that, in the fickle world of the drinks industry, a steady hand is key."

At each stage of L'Apprentice judging, Michael will be joined 'in the board room' by Paula Colhoun, Customer Marketing Manager, and Jeff Tosh, Sales Director, from Tennent's NI.

"This is about more than just a title", says Paula. "The Heverlee L'Apprentice programme certainly brings style to training, but it's got substance too. The candidates who complete the programme will vastly improve their knowledge base and practical skills and we're hoping that they will pass on those benefits to their colleagues: Les Ambassadeurs, as we have dubbed them."

Venues interested in nominating a Protégé for the process should contact their Tennent's NI Territory Manager or apply online at www.heverleelapprentice.com by the 31st May. Training is due to commence at the start of June.



The Draught Master himself, Michael Stewart (centre), aka Le Principal, is pictured with fellow judges Paula Colhoun, Customer Marketing Manager, and Jeff Tosh, Sales Director, from Tennent's NI. Wannabe Protégés can apply online at www.heverleelapprentice.com.

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Torches at the ready for the Cancer Focus NI Moonlit Walk!



Cancer Focus Northern Ireland is calling all walkers to challenge themselves to trek to the top of the highest peak in Northern Ireland – in the dark!

The Slieve Donard Moonlit Walk will take place on Friday 3rd June and all money raised will go towards helping local cancer patients and their families.

Jillian Wallace, Challenge Events Officer for Cancer Focus NI, said, “This is a great event for any keen walkers out there as well as people looking for a new and exciting challenge.

“Trekking the Mourne Mountains is a treat at the best of times- but by moonlight it will be a truly spectacular experience. The walk will start at 8pm and we plan to make it to the summit around midnight.

“From the top we’ll be able to stargaze and marvel at the lights of Newcastle and beyond, before returning to Donard car park for a well-earned hot cuppa. It will truly be a night to remember.”

Cancer Focus NI is a local charity committed to tackling



Fancy climbing Northern Ireland’s highest peak in the dark? Join Cancer Focus Northern Ireland on their Slieve Donard Moonlit Walk on Friday 3rd June. For more information or to sign up, contact Jillian Wallace, Challenge Events Officer, on 028 9068 0788 or email challenge@cancerfocusni.org. You can also register online at www.cancerfocusni.org. Get your torches ready for this must-do challenge!

cancer by supporting cancer research, providing services for cancer patients and their families and by advising people how to reduce their risk of the disease.

Jillian explained, “Our work in the community includes cancer support groups, a free helpline on 0800 783 3339, a bra-fitting service for women with breast cancer, art therapy, creative writing and other therapeutic and complementary services.

“All Cancer Focus NI services are provided free of charge for cancer patients and their families but we do need public support to help raise the necessary funds to continue our valuable work.

So please do consider taking part in our Slieve Donard Moonlit Walk- your support really will make a difference.”

To find out more information about this exciting challenge please call Jillian on 028 9068 0788 or email challenge@cancerfocusni.org or to register online please visit www.cancerfocusni.org

“We also have Keeping Well vans that bring health checks to local communities and we bring cancer prevention services to workplaces, schools, sports and social venues.

CLIMB OUR HIGHEST PEAK BY TORCHLIGHT!

Slieve Donard Moonlit Walk

Friday 3rd June 2016

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Register online at www.cancerfocusni.org/events or contact Jillian at Cancer Focus Northern Ireland T: 028 9068 0788 E: challenge@cancerfocusni.org

All proceeds in support of Cancer Focus Northern Ireland

www.cancerfocusni.org

The Bra Walk is back with a bang



Have your ‘bras’ at the ready as Belfast prepares to turn pink for the return of The Bra Walk, Action Cancer’s 10k walk taking place on Friday 3rd June, in aid of the charity’s life-saving breast screening service.

Now in its second year, The Bra Walk will begin at Belfast City Hall at 7pm. Action Cancer is encouraging men, women and children of all ages to take part in the fun-filled family event, helping to raise awareness of breast cancer and funds for the charity.

It is anticipated that more than 1,000 participants will take part, with a sea of pink feathers, sequins and bras as the walkers makes their way through the city. So why not get all dressed up in pink and join Action Cancer to walk 10k this June?

Online registration is now open priced at £10 per adult and £5 per child, and everyone taking part will receive The Bra Walk bag for life and complementary pink t-shirt. All participants are encouraged to raise a minimum of £80 in sponsorship, the amount it costs Action Cancer to provide digital breast screening for one women aged 40 – 49 and over 70.

Speaking at the launch of The Bra Walk, Q Radio presenter Cate Conway said, “Action Cancer is the only charity in the UK and Ireland to offer free breast screening to women who fall outside the NHS screening age range (50 – 70). Having just had my 40th birthday, I am encouraging other women in the age range to be breast aware”.

For further information or to register visit www.actioncancer.org, contact Action Cancer on 028 9080 3344, or email thebrawalk@actioncancer.org



Q Radio presenter Cate Conway shows her support as she launches The Bra Walk, Action Cancer’s 10k walk in aid of the charity’s life-saving breast screening service, being held at Belfast City Hall on Friday 3rd June.

Cancer Focus welcomes report

Cancer Focus Northern Ireland has welcomed the new report, Nicotine without smoke - putting electronic cigarettes in context, by the Tobacco Advisory Group of the Royal College of Physicians.

Gerry McElwee, Cancer Focus Northern Ireland’s head of cancer prevention, said, “This report shows that e-cigarettes are less harmful than tobacco. Smoking is the greatest cause of preventable death and disease and stopping smoking is the single best thing a smoker can do for their health. We encourage anyone who wants to

quit to use stop smoking services and access pharmacotherapies including Nicotine Replacement Therapy. This report confirms that advice and, in addition, shows that electronic cigarettes have the potential to reduce the enormous harm caused by tobacco.

“We believe that electronic cigarettes should be regulated to improve quality and reliability, and there should be restrictions to prevent advertising to non-smokers and children. We should also maintain the strongest regulation on tobacco, which is the most harmful product.”

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This summer's winning line-up

Get ready for an unmissable line-up of live sport this summer

This summer, Sky Sports brings you an unmissable line-up of live sport including all four golf Majors for the first ever time, all three games from Ireland rugby team's summer tour of South Africa and 20 live games from this season's GAA.

June sees a bumper month of rugby union live on Sky Sports with Ireland heading to South Africa for a three-match Test series with every game live on Sky Sports as well as England's series in Australia and Wales' clashes with world champions New Zealand. The action gets underway on June 11 with Ireland's clash with South Africa on June 18 forming part of a 'Super Summer Day' on Sky Sports which also includes US Open golf and three free-to-air games from Euro 2016.

Elsewhere, Sky's biggest ever year of golf continues with all four Majors and the Ryder Cup live on Sky Sports for the first time. Following the conclusion of a thrilling Masters in Augusta in which we saw a first British winner in 20 years, the Sky cameras



head to Oakmont Country Club for the US Open in June before all four days of the final two Majors of the season – The Open and US PGA Championships – are live in July.

GAA fans can see 20 live games this season including the semi-finals and final from both Hurling and Gaelic football with Sky Sports' coverage getting underway on June 4. Plus, there's plenty of darts action to enjoy including the World Matchplay between July 16 and 24 as Michael van Gerwen looks to defend his crown.

In August, the Premier League season makes its much-awaited return and this season Sky Sports have even more Premier League games - 126 up from 116 in 2015/16. And with the introduction of 10 brand new Friday night matches at the perfect time for pubs, you can kick start a four-day footballing weekend.

The new Sky Bet Football League season gets underway



on August 6 with 127 games live on Sky Sports next season, while Sky Sports will show 30 games from the SPFL including up to four Old Firm derbies after Rangers earned promotion back to the Scottish Premiership.

For those fans of cricket, Sky Sports is showing 29 days of live action throughout June including the climax of England's Test series against Sri Lanka, plus coverage of the NatWest T20 Blast, Royal London One-Day Cup and ODI tri-series between Australia, South Africa and the West Indies. There's no letup in July and August with every game from England's Test, ODI and T20 series with Pakistan live on Sky Sports plus the much-anticipated NatWest T20 Blast finals day at the end of August.

In Formula 1, Sky Sports is the only place to see the

To find out more about the huge summer of sport and Sky's latest offers, call 08442 411 111.



UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winner

by Tony McGee

It seems the months get busier with more and more GAA action packed into the weeks. Every sector of the association is alive at this time of year with an awful lot to pick our Monthly Merit winner from. The fields were alive but heading the list, from an Ulster point of view, was, of course, the NFL Division Two final with two Ulster teams in combat.

Tyrone were the winners and Cavan were the losers but the Breffni boys added a lot to an exciting game. Normally, the Man (or woman) -of-the-Match comes from the winning side and, too often, performances from losing players are ignored. Not by us this time, as our winner, after the usual debate, emerged as Cavan defender Padraig Faulkner.

It would be wrong to pigeon-hole the Kingscourt Stars player as a wing half-back, where he was named in the team. He was deployed in other positions, as well. Throughout the game he shadowed at least three different Tyrone players as the Breffni Blues tried to curb the wily Red Hand firing squad. He gets the award ahead of Tiernan McCann for his overall contribution to Cavan's cause.

"It is a fantastic achievement to win this award – my first individual honour," exclaimed Padraig (21). "We had our work cut out to try and stop those Tyrone boys and it was very disappointing that we didn't manage to win the game, but our aim at the start of the league was to win promotion, and we did that."



UGAAWA Chairman, John Martin, presents the Belleek Living vase to the April winner, Padraig Faulkner. Pic by Jim Dunne

March winner



A hectic GAA schedule meant it really could have been anyone's month, however Ronan O'Neill emerged the victor for March as he helped Tyrone to the top of the Allianz NFL Division Two pile

Pic: Peadar McMahon.

Carrickfergus CC say "Thank you"

The beginning of May marked the end of an era at Carrickfergus CC, with long serving groundsman Leslie Thompson preparing his final match wicket for the club, before calling it a day. Leslie, known universally as 'Tonto', is a former President of the Club and has been a member for nearly half a century.

For the last 20 years Leslie has also undertaken a labour of love in looking after Carrick's Middle Road ground. During this time Leslie has seen the club progress into the NCU Premier League, and prepared wickets which matched the club's elevated status, gaining praise from players and

umpires alike, and being rated as some of the best in NCU cricket.

The Club has been rewarded by being asked to host several prestige matches during his tenure. These include matches in the European Championships in 2000, and the ICC World Cup qualifying tournament in 2005, as well as a number of domestic representative matches and cup finals.

Leslie can now put his feet up, and will no doubt be around to give sage advice to his successor at Middle Road. It has been a job well done, and he will be a hard act to follow.



Carrickfergus CC 1st XI Captain, Iain Parkhill, and retiring groundsman, Leslie 'Tonto' Thompson.

It's a 'double' double for Crusaders

Title winners Crusaders are celebrating a NI Football Writers' awards 'double' double.

Having enjoyed a clean sweep of the April Awards on 4th May, where Stephen Baxter and Gavin Whyte picked up the Manager and Player of the Month Awards, at the end of season awards ceremony it was Crusaders who once again dominated the top accolades. Stephen Baxter won the Manager of the Year Award with defender, Billy Joe Burns, picking up the player award.

Full-back Burns followed up his Ulster Footballer of the Year award by being named Player of the Year and Baxter won the Manager of the Year award for a second straight season.

Glenavon's Joe Cooper was named Young Player of the Year and Northern Ireland manager, Michael O'Neill, was named the International Personality of the Year.

Lurgan Blues goal-stopper Jonathan Tuffey was voted top keeper while David Cushley's superb lob for Ballymena against Linfield earned him Goal of the Season.

Former Northern Ireland defender Mal Donaghy and former Portadown boss Ronnie McFall were inducted into the Dr Malcolm Brodie Hall of Fame at the awards ceremony in Belfast City Hall.



Stephen Baxter and Billy Joe Burns pictured with Danske Bank's Head of Marketing, Nicola McCleery



Dame Mary Peters is pictured with Jim McGilton and International Personality of the Year, Michael O'Neill.



The Belleek Championship Player of the Year is H&W Welders midfielder Scott Davidson.

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Storm in South Africa

Born and raised in Cape Town, Basil d'Oliveira was classified as a 'Cape Coloured', and therefore grew up as a second-class citizen in South Africa's apartheid era. Quite clearly one of the finest cricketers in his country, 'Dolly' was nevertheless banned from first-class cricket. Despite this, all-rounder d'Oliveira dominated the SACBOC (South African Cricket Board of Control - the first non-racial cricket organisation in South Africa) league for more than a decade on primitive tracks that clearly favoured the bowlers.

He arrived in the north of England in 1960, after West Indian fast bowler Wes Hall pulled out of a contract with Middleton in the Central Lancashire League. D'Oliveira's impressive form for Middleton led to a career in county cricket with Worcestershire. His fine technique, honed by years playing on bad wickets, saw him selected for an England Test debut in 1966.

Coming into Test cricket aged 34, d'Oliveira was a natural. His strength and timing enabled him to score freely off any bowler, and was at his best cutting, driving and pulling off the back foot. When the squad for the 1968 tour to South Africa was announced and d'Oliveira's name was missing, the public were outraged, thinking that the omission of the 1967 Cricketer of the Year was for political reasons. Dolly eventually replaced the injured seam bowler Tom Cartwright, but South Africa refused entry to the England party, who then cancelled the tour. Sporting exile followed for the apartheid nation, but d'Oliveira went on to play many more Tests for England.

Fosbury introduces the Flop

Dick Fosbury revolutionised the high jump with his unique new style.

Dick Fosbury revolutionised the high jump when he presented his new and unique style to the world on his international debut in the 1968 Olympic Games.

Using a back-first technique, now known as the Fosbury Flop, his method was to sprint diagonally towards the bar, then curve and leap backwards over it. At the time, it was traditional for high jumpers to take off with their inside foot and swing their outside foot up and over the bar. Taking off from his outside foot, Fosbury would twist his body so that he went over the bar head-first with his back to it. Many experts were initially critical of this unconventional technique, yet the audience in Mexico City took to the American immediately. Galvanized by the support and with the use of the Flop, Fosbury went on to win the gold medal and break the Olympic record with a height of 2.24m (7.5ft).

The Fosbury Flop is the technique of choice for professional high jumpers competing today, a great credit to the innovative genius of this Olympic gold medallist who refused to be tied down by conventional methods.

Also this year...

Football - Glentoran won the Irish league by a hairs breadth, pipping arch rivals Linfield by a single point, with Coleraine only another point adrift.

Golf - South African Gary Player won The Open at Carnoustie by 2 strokes, with Bob Charles and Jack Nicklaus tying for second place. The winners prize-money was a mere £3,000

Motor Racing - Former Formula 1 champion, Jim Clark, died after a crash in a practice session at Hockenheim, Germany.

Snooker - In a World Snooker Championship challenge match, John Pulman defeated Australia's Eddie Charlton 39-34.

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