

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

Club Review

VOLUME 31 - Issue 2, 2018



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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in the R.A.O.B. Headquarters, Belfast, on Saturday 10th March 2018

The Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to delegates, representing clubs from throughout the province.

Following a request for members to observe a minute's silence in respect of past members, he provided a resumé of the items on the agenda for today's meeting.

The Secretary, Harry Beckinsale, was then asked to read the minutes of the 2017 AGM, which were subsequently passed as a true record, being proposed by Tom McNaught of the RAOB HQ and Brian Dunbar of the Meadowbank Social Club.

At this point, the Treasurer, David Larmour, provided a financial report, which was proposed as a true record by Ivan Gillespie of Holywood Sports and Social Club and Alvin Maginnis of Comber Bowling Club. Alvin did ask about an anomaly in the statement of accounts, which was due to income which came into the new tax year.

The Chairman continued to provide an update on the long awaited amendments to the 1996 Clubs Order, which continues to await the re-sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

One issue which continues to present an unnecessary level of bother is the

restriction on advertising, which, it would seem, is subject to interpretation by the authorities, rather than application.

Social media is also impacting on clubs, in that it is being policed. It was explained by the Secretary, that clubs need to be aware, as far as is possible, of the problems caused by members placing notices on social media, which can cause problems for the club.

It was suggested that if a notice is placed on social media, it should be set out similar to a printed advertisement, or poster, with the sport or prescribed recreation being foremost in the notice, and adding the words 'Members and Guests' welcome.

The Secretary confirmed, that some time ago, we were advised by our legal team to be aware that social media was being policed by a range of bodies, such as insurance companies, the police, and others. Clubs will do well to heed the warning and issues attached to this growing problem.

Entertainment licensing was covered in some detail, with confirmation of the role played by the Federation in the consultation process. It was explained that although all those in the said process agreed a more streamlined system, it remains to be put into practice.

continued on page 4



Federation Executive Committee members pictured at the recent AGM with Gillian Creevy, Chief Executive, Cancer Fund for Children, and (right) John Hughes, Secretary, West Belfast Sports & Social Club.

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Sky Television and the tariff being related to the rating NAV of a club was discussed. The Secretary said that the arrangement we have, was the result of over three years of negotiations with Sky, in London and locally. He continued to explain that it is only the registered club sector which can benefit from this arrangement. However, it was acknowledged that we would like to secure an arrangement which would benefit all clubs. The executive committee feel that we should explore this possibility, due to the fact that the club sector operates under a prescribed accountancy system, which can confirm the profitability of a club, and thus has the potential of securing a fair Sky TV tariff.

Those clubs which do not benefit from extensive sporting arenas, are nevertheless likely to be able to obtain increased

sport and recreational relief. In order to achieve this, the club can apply for a reassessment by the rating agency, or engage the services of Rory Clarke, who can advise and assess the potential of achieving, or indeed increasing the percentage used for sport and leisure within a club. It was explained that a club needs to have at least 20% of its premises used for a prescribed sport and/or recreation, which in turn will provide an 80% rating reduction on that percentage.

The new PRS/PPL amalgamation was discussed, with the Secretary explaining that the Northern Ireland representative, Iain Webb, invites clubs to call him, or channel enquiries through the Federation, should they require assistance.

He continued to confirm that



(L-R) Harry Beckinsale, Secretary; John Davidson, Chairman; and David Larmour, Treasurer.

the joint license for amateur sports clubs, remains available, which, in the case of Northern Ireland, is particularly helpful.

Trustees of a club is a matter of regular discussion, and this year's AGM is no different. A question was raised regarding the implications of being a trustee, and the important requirement of trustees

being indemnified under the club insurance policy, being highlighted.

Executive Committee member Joe Patterson provided an overview of employment issues, including the importance of utilising the benefits of the cover provided under a club insurance policy. Continuing, he provided details of the

Federation's meeting with the Labour Relations Agency's, John McGrath and Dr Mary O'Brien, who advised that clubs should take appropriate advice and guidance, in line with legislation. They agreed that referring the matter to the 'DAS' aspect of the club insurance policy provided by Rollins Club Insurance, or a similar facility under another provider, is the preferred way to protect the interests of the club. In summing up, he touched on the important aspect of health and safety.

A brief presentation was made by Mark Rooney, on the service provided by MJ Utilities, in ascertaining the most cost-effective energy tariff for our member clubs. As an independent, not representing any particular supplier, they can provide the most cost-effective tariff from the current range of suppliers. Moreover, it was explained that they can sign a club to a tariff, even if their renewal is not due for some months ahead, always providing it is beneficial to do so.

The issue of auto-enrolment pensions was addressed by the Secretary, due to the Federation Accountant Lawrence Shearer of O'Hara Shearer, being unavailable, due to a family bereavement.

The Secretary explained the importance of the club management not providing advice to staff with regards to joining or not joining a pension, as this is not permitted, and can result in the club being

penalised. He continued to explain that Gordon Smith of Rollins Insurance, can provide independent advice on this matter.

The Secretary thanked those present for the continued support of charities and good causes, outlining the many charities supported by the Federation through the distribution of charity publications and inclusion of press releases in 'Club Review'.

Gillian Creevy, Chief Executive of the Cancer Fund for Children, spoke on behalf of the charity sector, thanking the registered club sector for its support. At this point, the Federation Chairman John Davidson, thanked Gillian for her kind words, and presented a cheque for £500 to her, on behalf of the sector.

In conclusion, those suppliers who support the Federation were thanked, with a request that, where and when possible, our members should avail of the products they provide. As a voluntary body, the support provided by these companies is vital, and allows us to maintain membership fees at the same level since the inception of the Federation.

This concluded the 2018 AGM. The Chairman thanked the RAOB HQ Club for making their facilities available, and for providing the excellent hospitality available.

Harry Beckinsale
Secretary, N.I. Federation of Clubs



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Advice for conducting risk assessments

By law, Clubs are required to conduct a risk assessment of hazards risks. A risk assessment is essentially a form that helps identify the actual and the potential risks that could happen in your workplace. The main purpose is to highlight risks and weigh up whether you have taken enough precautions, or should do more to prevent harm.

Employers should ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all employees. Risk assessments are a very important step in protecting employees and the Club itself, as well as complying with the law.

Do:

- Write a policy. This will let your employees know about

your commitment to health and safety and how they can bring items of concern to the attention of the Committee. Remember, Club employees will likely be well aware of any potential risks in the Club and can therefore help to ensure that such risks are resolved or minimised.

- Pick a competent employee to help you. This can be one of your employees or someone from outside your business. They can also liaise with other full-time or casual employees.
- Walk around the Club to see the risks yourself. You will be able to see exactly how people undergo their daily tasks and if there are any potential risks.
- Look through previous accident or illness records. These might have been caused

by risks that are still likely to happen in your workplace.

- Think both short and long term. Risks might not just affect people in the short term, a certain task might have risks in the future.
- Record your findings. Writing down the risks lets you show your employees so they can understand them as well as allowing you to review your findings at a later date.
- Date findings and any changes needed. You can then look at this later and see if the changes have made any difference.

Don't:

- Over complicate things. The risk assessment does not have to be a long-winded process; just note risks and steps being taken to reduce the likelihood

of them happening. The simpler you make the process, the more times per year you will find time to repeat the risk assessment.

- Forget to do a risk assessment. Make a date to complete the process, at least once a year, but twice a year if possible.
- Muddle along. If you feel stuck, ask for help. There are many different channels to get help from, Club's insurance provider, for example.
- Brush risks under the carpet. No matter how insignificant a risk, you still need to make a note of it and set up precautions to stop it. Examples of risk assessments can be viewed online at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies> These examples will give you a useful idea of how an assessment should be structured and undertaken.

Ormeau Golf Club's new look 19th done to a "tee", thanks to PCI

"Ormeau Golf Club Council (OGC) and members are delighted with the recent refurbishment of our clubhouse, carried out by Pubs, Clubs and Interiors (PCI).

"Following a competitive tender, PCI were appointed to refurbish the upstairs lounge, President's bar, hall, stairs and landing. They responded creatively to our brief and club needs, then presented their ideas to the Council, working within a very tight timeline and allocated budget.

"From the start, PCI displayed their commitment, passion and professionalism for the project. Their ideas to give the lounge a contemporary, warm, welcoming ambience was achieved with items such as custom-made carpet, softer lighting and complete refurbishment of some of our existing furniture.

"The colour scheme they proposed has worked well, from the entrance hall through to the main stairway leading to the lounge and on into Presidents lounge; the warm soft furnishings and colour scheme remains throughout and is in keeping with a modern theme.

"PCI manufactured a new bar for us, creating space within a closed area, and their attention to detail was demonstrated in a skilfully tiled area around the

bar with handcrafted foot rails, solid 100mm thick african teak bar top and bespoke glass rails to the bar canopy. There are two outstanding designs that PCI created - one of the most eye-catching are the bespoke curved and raised seating bays (shown opposite), the other, a beautiful trophy display cabinet, built for the entrance hall.

"During the 3 weeks of the refurb John, Ronnie and their team worked tirelessly and were always on hand from 7am in the morning to 10pm at night. The quality of their workmanship and their professional approach as the job was finished on time. As well any additional budget agreed and any after-sales, settling in snags were remedied quickly and with ease.

"PCI worked well under pressure - OGC had our Honorary Secretary and House Convenor on site every day liaising with PCI, who responded to all requests and answered all queries with accountability and reasoning.

"In conclusion, we are thrilled with the finished product and we would not hesitate to recommend Pubs, Clubs and Interiors to anyone."

Chris McNicholl
Honorary Secretary
Ormeau Golf Club

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Questions & Answers - Elections Special

Q. In recent years the turnout for voting has been quite poor, is there a minimum amount of votes needed to count as a fair election? We are also trying to establish a more economical way of carrying out such tasks such as postal votes or voting on the evening of the AGM. Are any of these ideas feasible?

A. There is no problem with holding the vote for Committee positions and for Officers by either a postal vote or at the AGM itself.

However, you will need a Rule change to allow either of these alternatives. Most clubs rules are quite clear in that the elections should be held the week prior to the AGM, or at the AGM itself, and should be by ballot. It is these rules which would need to be modified to allow alternative voting methods.

There is no minimum number of votes which are needed to count as a fair election. Most clubs have a period of seven days where votes can be taken prior to the AGM or choose to simply have the vote taken at the meeting itself. We

would hope that during either of these periods a sufficient number of members will visit the club and vote in order for the election result to be considered fair and just.

Q. Can our club operate with a General Committee of six elected members? I have only six nominations for 12 vacant positions on the General Committee. I also have one nominee who has received one proposer but no seconder on the nomination list. Is he allowed or disallowed?

A. There is no reason why your club cannot operate with a Committee of six elected members, plus the Officers of the club. It would constitute a Rule change which would have to be approved by the members at a Special General Meeting.

You would also need to look at your quorum requirements for the Committee and reduce it down accordingly. However, care should be taken not to reduce the number so low that the Committee ceases to be representative of the members.

To stand for any elected position, a member must have received a nomination from both a proposer and a seconder. Without a seconder

then the nominee cannot stand for election.

Q. During my tenure, both on the Committee and as Secretary, we have had the same President, but this year the President is standing down and another standing. My question is, does the outgoing President chair the whole AGM, or does he chair the meeting until the new President is ratified at the meeting?

A. This matter varies from club to club and you should look at the precedent which has previously been set regarding how the AGM is conducted which has an outgoing President. However, it would be highly unusual for an incoming President not to be allowed to address the members if they so desired.

On many occasions it would be appropriate for the outgoing President to open the meeting and discuss any issues arising and give the overview of the previous year before handing off to the new President to close the meeting and address the members. We suggest that the two Presidents discuss how they would like to hold the meeting and decide on an appropriate format.



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Hours and hours!

As a matter of employment law, most people have quite fixed ideas about what they consider to be important about their "hours of work", whether that be a cap on the maximum hours they work, whether they are classified as night work or unsocial hours, whether they include paid or unpaid breaks and so on.

Generally speaking, people know when they are supposed to be at work and how those hours are classified accordingly in terms of standard working week and when it moves into the realm of overtime. Overtime is not as straightforward as one might think and it is only upon consulting the employment contract or statement of

written particulars that clarity can be gained over whether overtime is - voluntary and paid, compulsory and unpaid or some combined variation therein.

A further complication is the three classifications of overtime, namely - compulsory guaranteed overtime, compulsory non-guaranteed overtime and voluntary overtime. For some years now the courts have been wrestling with these constructs with particular reference to the calculation of holiday pay.

It is at this point that the employment lawyers have a field day with the conflicting definitions of a weeks' pay under domestic law and

normal remuneration under EU law. Considerable satellite litigation has resulted from cases that have been trying to get the matter settled for several years and that has only recently been resolved and even yet some questions remain unanswered.

In recent years the focal questions to ask about the overtime included - is it "regularly worked" and is it "regularly achieved"? Which then begged questions about what the measurement for reference was for regularity in terms of the 12 week referencing system under the Working Time Regulations.

Whilst the debate rages on regarding the reference period, the practical out-workings of superior court decisions derived from the Working Time Regulations now tell us that regardless of the "type" of overtime, if it is regularly worked and regularly achieved it must be factored into the calculation for holiday pay.

At the heart of the matter here is whether someone receives effectively less pay on holiday or is deterred from taking leave because they will get less pay

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on holiday than they would when they would normally achieve and receive overtime payments.

From a case law perspective, voluntary overtime was the last of the dominoes to fall as contractual non-guaranteed overtime was decided a few years ago (along with other remuneration related matters such as - bonuses, commission and other related payments), but some outstanding questions remain about the breadth of the definition of remuneration and the appropriateness of the reference period for certain calculations.

For some time now, the common law position and the legislative position on several "Working Time" related matters (eg - automatic time-bounded carry-over of leave in long term sickness cases) have been totally out of sync and so a working knowledge of both is essential for anyone working in the area of employment rights and responsibilities.

For further information or advice, contact the Labour Relations Agency www.lra.org.uk

MJ Utilities advise clubs to act now or pay the price

What happened with energy prices in 2017?

- Airtricity announces 7.6% gas price increase in Northern Ireland from 31 March
- Gas supplier Firmus has announced a 12.2% price hike for its Northern Ireland 80,000 customers - the second energy giant to bump up bills in five days.
- Millions face huge energy bill hikes as Npower raises bills by 10 per cent
- Scottish Power announced a price rise in February, which takes effect 31st March 2017.
- 1.5million customers face higher energy bills as EDF becomes the latest firm to announce inflation-busting hikes of up to 9% on electricity and gas prices
- E.On has said it will increase its dual fuel standard variable tariffs by 8.8% from next month. Electricity prices will rise by an average of 13.8%, and gas prices by 3.8%.

And more recently:

17th August 2017: Price hike as Power NI confirms 5.6% increase. Businesses and households across the province are facing higher electricity bills from 1st

October, as supplier Power NI has announced it is to increase prices by 5.6%.

24th August 2017: SSE Airtricity increasing Northern Ireland electricity prices by 7.5%. The firm says it is "a result of rises in external costs, including wholesale energy costs which are affected by global energy markets".

4th September 2017: Vayu warns of volatile prices for winter gas. Irish wholesale gas prices are set for "considerable" volatility this winter, following a 30 per cent year-on-year surge in the fuel's cost in August.

28th December

2017: Energy supplier Vayu warns of volatile gas prices in 2018. Irish wholesale energy prices may be volatile in 2018, according to a power supplier, after gas prices surged 38% in December from their average level last year.

Two simple steps to savings:

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Reminders

Clubs should remember that Auto Enrol Pension employer contributions increase in

April to 2%, with employee contributions increasing to 3%, up from 1% in each case.

Date	Employer Minimum	Employee Minimum	Total Minimum Contribution
Up to 5 April 2018	1%	1%	2%
6th April 2018 to 5 April 2019	2%	3%	5%
6 April 2019 onwards	3%	5%	8%

PPL/PRS Merger

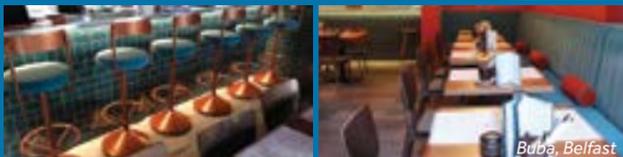
Following queries received from clubs, we have met Iain Webb of PPL/PRS, who has explained that things remain very much as they were.

In next month's issue of Club Review we will cover some of the finer detail. In the meantime, Iain invites clubs to contact him to resolve any concerns they may have, or of course, contact the Federation Secretary on 07889 681714.



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Chelsea v West Ham
Sun 8 April, 4.30pm
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Tottenham v Man City
Sat 14 April, 7.45pm
Premier League



Newcastle v Arsenal
Sun 15 April, 1.30pm
Premier League



Arsenal v West Ham
Mon 23 April, 8pm
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Sun 29 April, 4.30pm
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The Cancer Fund for Children

Developing services for future generations



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

The Cancer Fund for Children has been assisting families with children with a cancer diagnosis for over forty years.

This particular charity has enjoyed a long association with the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs and its respective member clubs, being one of the many charities and good causes which has benefitted from the generosity of individual clubs and their members.

To learn that a child has been diagnosed with cancer must have a devastating impact on the immediate, let alone the extended family circle. However, and regretfully, it is happening all too often.

All parents want the best for their children, in particular, financial stability can present added difficulty when a life-changing event such as this presents itself, indeed, it is the case that family life changes in many ways.

Everyday routines have to change in order to receive treatment. That is where, and when, the Cancer Fund for

Children steps in. Specially trained staff are available to help the family through difficult emotional times, also helping families understand and simplify medical jargon.

But it doesn't stop there, as help is provided in other ways, such as financial support for such things as home heating, travel expenses to attend for treatment etc.

At such times it may seem that there is an endless list of things to do, which makes it ever more important to know that professional help is at hand to support and guide you.

There are of course instances when a parent receives a cancer diagnosis. In this instance, it is important, and indeed essential, that children are provided with the support to cope with the situation.

Respite breaks are made available, at Pine, Birch and Oak cottages in Coleraine, for families to share quality time together.

The state-of-the-art Daisy Lodge complex, which benefitted from the generous support of Rory McLlroy, is in the beautiful Mourne area of Newcastle, County Down, and is, quite simply, an amazing complex providing accommodation for families with every modern facility imaginable, including a fully equipped gym.

Demand for the services of the Cancer Fund for Children was such, that In 2014 it was decided to create a similar facility in the south of Ireland. The location



The Cancer Fund for Children's fabulous Daisy Lodge complex, situated in the Mourne Mountains, Newcastle.

chosen, while being in the planning stages, will be near Conn, an area associated with the classic film, 'The Quiet Man'.

When interviewing the charity's Chief Executive, Gillian Creevy, at Belfast 89 FM, she spoke enthusiastically about the new project and the valuable service it will provide. Gillian's positivity is infectious, and extremely motivating. She said that naturally, a substantial financial investment is required with which to create this new

facility, while at the same time, maintaining and developing the other services provided.

However, we are aware of how generous people are in supporting projects such as this.

I will most certainly do my utmost to assist in promoting this most worthy of causes, and am confident that respective clubs will continue to support this wonderful charity.

Nigel



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The Kraken Black Spiced Rum eclipses the season with its dark twist on classic summertime serves

Hear the words 'summer cocktail', and an image of brightly hued drinks with jolly umbrellas probably pops into your head. However this summer, The Kraken Black Spiced Rum is taking on the traditional warm weather line-up with its own dark twist on the hot favourites, with the 'Summer Eclipse' serves... and it's casting some serious shade on the old standards.

The range of limited edition summer cocktails has been designed for fans of The Kraken who appreciate the darker things in life. The line-up has been developed with the hottest cocktail trends in mind, using ingredients such as avocado, black tea and cider.

Devilishly dark and terrifyingly tempting, the six classic cocktails to be eclipsed this summer are:

The Daiquiri BECOMES The Dark & Eerie

Forget everything you knew about the cheerful poolside favourite, and dip your toes into tumultuous waters instead.

Made with avocado and Cholula Hot Sauce, and featuring a chili salt rim, it promises heat whether the sun is still up or not.

Milkshake BECOMES Freak of the Deep

Beware black ice! Give in to sweet temptation with the ultimate freakshake - another huge drinks trend, featuring cookies and ice cream for a full-on inky attack.

The Cider BECOMES The Poison Apple

Another hot trend, the cider cocktail gets the Brothers Grimm treatment, with fiery ginger and lemon.

The Spritz BECOMES Ink Spritz

Not for the faint-hearted, this twist in the tale features rhubarb and lillet.

Punch BECOMES Octo-Punch

No BBQ will be the same again, as night falls on the house party staple. Whirling with black tea and served in a hurricane glass - even the classic umbrella garnish on this one has seen the eye of the storm.

The Mojito BECOMES The Black Mojito

The ubiquitous minty marvel reveals its blackened soul with the use of The Kraken Black Spiced Rum.

The Summer Eclipse cocktails have been created to work across both home and bar settings, offering a stand-out alternative to the usual summer line-up for bars, and an easy transition from the day-to-night drinking occasion.

However they are also accessible enough to be prepared at home. The Kraken Rum website and social channels will feature step-by-step mixology videos and recipes to help adventurous hosts recreate each one.

SUMMER ECLIPSE PERFECT SERVES RECIPES:

Daiquiri: Dark & Eerie

- Step 1 - Rim the glass with lime and chili salt
- Step 2 - Blend with a 1/4 avocado
- Step 3 - Add 25ml lime juice



- Step 4 - Add 25ml vanilla syrup
- Step 5 - Pour in 10ml single cream
- Step 6 - Cholula to taste
- Step 7 - Add 50ml of Kraken
- Step 8 - Blend with crushed ice and pour into glass

Shake: Freak of the Deep (Made for two)

- Step 1 - Drizzle chocolate sauce all around inside of glass
- Step 2 - Add 100ml of Kraken into blender
- Step 3 - Add 1 large scoop of chocolate ice cream, 2 large scoops of vanilla ice cream, 2 to 3 cookies and ½ litre milk into blender
- Step 4 - Pour into extra large glass
- Step 5 - Add a scoop of vanilla and a scoop of chocolate ice cream to the top
- Step 6 - Top with whipped cream
- Step 7 - Garnish with chopped cookies, toasted marshmallows and get freaky with sweet treats

Cider: Poison Apple

- Step 1 - Fill glass with cracked ice
- Step 2 - Add 20ml lemon juice
- Step 3 - Add 20ml ginger syrup
- Step 4 - Pour in 35ml Kraken
- Step 5 - Top with cider
- Step 6 - Add lime wedge



Spritz: Ink Spritz

- Step 1 - Add crushed ice to a large wine glass
- Step 2 - Add rhubarb soda until glass is 2/3 full
- Step 3 - Pour 35ml lillet
- Step 4 - Add 35ml of Kraken
- Step 5 - Add rhubarb stem and stir
- Step 6 - Add orange slice

Punch: Octo-Punch

- Step 1 - Fill hurricane glass with ice
- Step 2 - Add 20ml lemon juice
- Step 3 - Add 20ml orange liqueur
- Step 4 - Add 35ml of Kraken
- Step 5 - Add cold black tea
- Step 6 - Stir
- Step 7 - Add lemon twist

Mojito: Black Mojito

- Step 1 - Add 6 to 8 mint leaves
- Step 2 - Add 25ml sugar syrup
- Step 3 - Add 25ml lime juice
- Step 4 - Add 50ml of Kraken
- Step 5 - Fill glass halfway with crushed ice and churn
- Step 6 - Add lime wedge and mint sprig

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Brewers at St James's Gate are proud to unveil 'ROCKSHORE' a new refreshing & light tasting Irish lager



(lr) Niki Maccorquodale, Head of Beer Innovation, Diageo is pictured with St James's Gate brewer, Yvonne Cleary, at the recent launch of Rockshore Irish Lager.

Brewers at St. James's Gate Brewery are proud to unveil an exciting new Irish lager 'Rockshore' which has been inspired by the rugged refreshing experience of the West Coast of Ireland.

Speaking at the unveiling of Rockshore, Head of Beer Innovation, Diageo Europe, Niki Maccorquodale commented, "We are absolutely delighted to introduce Rockshore - a light, refreshing tasting lager inspired by the West Coast of Ireland from our Brewers here at St James's Gate.

"Undoubtedly, one of the most captivating parts of Ireland, the west coast is home from home for many of us. From weekend trips with mates, to the salty spray of the Atlantic sea, when the people, playlists and pit stops matter more than anything else in the world, at that moment in time."

Maccorquodale continued, "People are increasingly looking for choice, particularly among beers and lagers offering a refreshing and light taste. Brewed using only four quality ingredients, Rockshore is the best light tasting lager our brewers have ever created and we can't wait for people to try it".

Over the summer months, Rockshore is planning a series of collaborations, experiences and partnerships, so watch this space on [instagram.com/rockshorelager](https://www.instagram.com/rockshorelager)

With an ABV of 4% and 106 calories per bottle, Rockshore Irish lager is being rolled out nationally from March and will be available in outlets nationwide over the coming weeks.

For more information visit:
[Instagram.com/rockshorelager](https://www.instagram.com/rockshorelager)
[Facebook.com/RockshoreLager](https://www.facebook.com/RockshoreLager)
[Twitter.com/rockshorelager](https://www.twitter.com/rockshorelager)



Federation Treasurer, David Larmour (left), and Secretary, Harry Beckinsale (right), pictured with Jorge Lopes, Country Director, Diageo NI, at the recent Belfast launch of Rockshore Irish Lager.

Street Soccer NI and Michael O'Neill team up for an exclusive fundraising event

Street Soccer NI is teaming up with East Belfast Mission and the IFA to bring an exclusive fundraising event to Belfast - An Evening with Michael O'Neill, Northern Ireland Manager.

Taking place on 16th May, this is an event not to be missed by local businesses and football fans alike, as guests will be treated to a luxurious 3-course meal, a range of fantastic auction prizes, and of course, a one-off interview with the Northern Ireland football legend himself - all hosted by well-known sports and music radio and television presenter, Colin Murray.

All funds raised from this fabulous event will be used to support Street Soccer NI, which uses football to transform the lives of people who are homeless or socially disadvantaged. Alongside football training, the charity also offer their players support in housing, employability, and other difficulties, helping them towards a brighter future.

Justin McMinn, co-founder of Street Soccer NI, said, "We are extremely proud to be hosting this exciting event with Michael O'Neill. Homelessness is such a serious issue in Northern

Ireland and we are dedicated to playing our part to tackle it. That's why we are calling out to local businesses and clubs to come together to support our work and celebrate Northern Irish football by attending this fantastic evening on 16th May - You won't want to miss it!"

For more information or to book your place at this special event please contact Lianne on 028 9045 8560 or email fundraising@ebm.org.uk

For more information about the work of Street Soccer NI please visit www.streetsoccerni.org



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UGAAWA Annual Award Winners

by Tony McGee

History was made during the Ulster GAA Writers' Association 30th annual Awards Function. For the first time in the history of the scheme, brothers were named among the dozen stars who received individual honours for their deeds in 2017.

Sean and Colm Cavanagh were the recipients of the Personality of the Year and Male Footballer of the Year, respectively.

Because of their Croke Park All-Ireland date, the history-makers were not available to join the party in Monaghan but they sent a message via video-link.

Antrim have had their moments in hurling as they were spurred on by the powerplay of strongman, John Dillon, from Armoy, who fought off tough opposition from the likes of dual performer Brendan Rogers for the Hurler of the Year accolade.

There were many names to choose from when selecting the Female Football award winner as a number of Ulster teams made their mark during the season, some winning national trophies and others narrowly missing out on silverware. At least half-a-dozen girls put up their hands for consideration and in the end it was Armagh star, Aimee Mackin, who got the vote, after being in the mix last year, as well.

When it came to camogie, the spotlight fell, not unnaturally, on the Oak Leaf county with Slaughtneil the focus of

attention, following the All-Ireland success of the Robert Emmett's. It was really a case of which one, although former winner Karen Keilt had strong claims, as well.

However, it was Eilis Ni Chaiside who stepped up to the podium to collect the award after her performances with club, county and province.

Handball is the GAA sport with a global appeal and many Irish players have stamped their authority in America, Canada and all over Europe. Conor McElduff, after recovering from illness, blazed a trail in Wall Ball across the continent to reach the Number One spot in the Rankings.

Teenage players were very much to the fore in many codes, so there was plenty to choose from in the Young Achiever category, but the honour fell to Fermanagh 16-year-old footballer, Eimear Smyth, who starred in the Erne County's trip to winning the All-Ireland Junior Football Championship.

When it came to Club of the Year, how could one ignore Slaughtneil, as they collected Ulster senior titles in three codes plus an All-Ireland crown. Their various teams were also high on the list



Back Row: Sean Kerr (representing Handball winner Conor McElduff), Conor Meyler (St Mary's Univ), Gerry McEldowney (Slaughtneil), Eilis Ni Chaiside (Camogie), John Dillon (Hurling), Justin McNulty (Gaelic Voices for Change). Front Row: Eimear Smyth (Young Achiever), Omagh GAC (Cultural Award), John Martin (UGAAWA Chairman), Micheál Geoghegan (Communications), Naul McCole (Services to the GAA), Aimee Mackin (Female Footballer). Picture Jim by Dunne

concerning Team of the Year but that honour went to St Mary's University in Belfast.

Omagh St Enda's won the Cultural Award for the second time in four years, while Ulster Council PRO, Michael

Geoghegan, collected the Communications Award. The Services to the GAA Award went to Donegal dedicated servant, Naul McCole. For the great work they are doing, the Chairman's Award went to Gaelic Voices for Change.

UGAAWA Annual Award Winners 2017

- | | |
|---|---|
| Male Footballer
Colm Cavanagh (Tyrone) | Team of the Year
St Mary's University (Belfast) |
| Female Footballer of Year
Aimee Mackin (Armagh) | Club of the Year
Slaughtneil Emmett's (Derry) |
| Hurler of the Year
John Dillon (Antrim) | Cultural Award
Omagh St Enda's (Tyrone) |
| Camogie Award
Eilis Ni Chaiside (Derry) | Communications Award
Michael Geoghegan (Armagh) |
| Handball Award
Conor McElduff (Tyrone) | Services to the GAA
Naul McCole (Donegal) |
| Personality of the Year
Sean Cavanagh (Tyrone) | Chairman's Award
Gaelic Voices for Change |
| Young Achiever
Eimear Smyth (Fermanagh) | |

UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winner

by Tony McGee

It is always said that when you learn to ride a bicycle you never forget. It would seem that when you learn how to score it's the same story. At least, that looks like a truism as far as Seamus Quigley is concerned.

After displaying his sharp-shooting qualities for some time, the Roslea man collected our Monthly Merit award for January 2012 - before he took a few years sabbatical from county football. Recently, he breezed back again to mix it with the best and give defences a headache.

Throughout last month, Quigley totted up score from play and, in particular, from dead ball situations as far out as the 45-metre line. His 1-8 blitz against Derry, in Fermanagh's last match, was tantamount to the fact that the attacker has lost nothing of his touch.

He won the Monthly Merit award for his performances in the Dr McKenna Cup during January 2012 so spanning a six years' spell, including a few years out from county football, speaks volumes for Seamus' ability.

Ironically, his brother Sean, also still showing aggressive qualities in the Fermanagh attack, was the Monthly Merit winner for his Dr McKenna Cup displays during January 2015. The Quigley's seem to trap early in the season.

Because of county training, Seamus (29) was not able to receive the trophy in person and it was former Fermanagh



Ronan Gallagher receives the Quinn Building Products-UGAAWA February Merit Award, on behalf of Seamus Quigley, from UGAAWA Chairman, John Martin (left) and Seamus McMahon, Quinn Building Products, Sales & Marketing Director. Picture by Jim Dunne

goalkeeper, Ronan Gallagher, who did the honours. Ronan is now a member of the Erne County backroom team, being the goalkeeping coach.

Said Seamus, when notified of being selected for the award, "Unfortunately I won't be able to attend, as we have training that night. I don't want to miss training now that I am back in the panel. It is a strong panel. It is nice to win the award again."

Despite it being early season, many players are showing good form and Seamus Quigley had to fight off nominations from Armagh's Ethan Rafferty, plus Monaghan players, Rory Beggan and Conor McCarthy, who not only showed great form with his county, but also with UCD in their Sigerson Cup success.

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February NIFWA Awards



Glenavon FC boss Gary Hamilton has been named BetMcLean Manager of the Month by NIFWA.

important to this club, so we are now fully focused on that.”

NIFWA Chairman Keith Bailie said, “Glenavon have not lost a league game in 2018, with four very impressive results in February.

“Oran Kearney at Coleraine and Rodney McAree at Dungannon also had fine months, but we were particularly impressed by Glenavon’s 2-0 win over Linfield at Windsor Park.”

Paul McLean of sponsors BetMcLean said, “Gary Hamilton is a great manager and a real character. His Glenavon side are certainly one of the in-form teams at the moment.”

In February, the Lurgan Blues defeated Dungannon Swifts in the Irish Cup whilst also claiming league wins over Ards, Carrick Rangers and Linfield. They also lifted the Mid-Ulster Cup with a win over Newry City, in the final.

Gary Hamilton said, “This award means a lot to me and I would like to thank both the sponsors BetMcLean and the Football Writers, for this award. Obviously we had a disappointing result in the Irish Cup on Saturday against Loughgall, but we still have plenty to play for in the league. European football is very



Glenavon Manager, Gary Hamilton, receiving his BetMcLean Manager of the Month Award from Paul McLean.

Glenoran striker Curtis Allen has been named BetMcLean Player of the Month by NIFWA.

“But we’re looking to the future now and there’s plenty to play for. We are determined to secure a place in the top six, while we also have an Irish Cup quarter-final against Coleraine on Tuesday night to look forward too.”

Allen scored league goals against Ballinamallard United, Ards, Cliftonville and Warrenpoint Town, as well as bagging a four-goal-haul against Ballyclare Comrades in the Irish Cup.

Paul McLean of sponsors BetMcLean said, “Curtis has been in tremendous form in recent weeks and is a worthy winner of this award.”

Reflecting on his nine-goal month, Allen said, “It was a strange month. Personally, it was fantastic for me to score nine goals and to play well on a few occasions.

NIFWA Chairman Keith Bailie said, “Curtis has been one of the best strikers in the local game for a decade now. He is one of the deadliest finishers in the Irish League and when he’s on form, he’s unstoppable. Nine goals in a month is a massive achievement.”

“However, the manager lost his job. Obviously, I was very disappointed for Gary Haveron.



Paul McLean presents Glenoran’s Curtis Allen with his BetMcLean Player of the Month award.

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Rugby unites a nation



President Mandela presents the 1995 Rugby World Cup to Springbok captain, Francois Pienaar.

In the final few minutes before the kick off of the 1995 Rugby World Cup Final, the South African team dressing room was at boiling point. The mood in the dressing room was ramped up to the point that the players were in danger of exploding on the pitch and losing their discipline. The captain, Francois Pienaar, later said he was finding it difficult to keep the rage under control. The atmosphere was so intense.

Then suddenly, the dressing room door opened and in walked their new president, Nelson Mandela, dressed in a South African rugby shirt. The players seemed to find a certain calmness from his presence and pride in their president wearing their beloved national rugby shirt. After wishing each player well, Mandela left the dressing room and a sense of calm, combined with a new steely determination, fell across the room. The South African team went out and beat the New Zealanders in an intense rugby world cup final.

For the first time, the whole of South Africa was totally united. All races and religions were hugging each other. Pienaar said that after the game, when President Mandela presented him with the cup, President Mandela said, “Thank you very much for what you’ve done for South Africa.

A sporting hero is honoured



Graffiti on the circuit at the 1995 San Marino Grand Prix commemorated Brazilian national hero Ayrton Senna, who was killed at Imola on 1st May the previous year, after hitting a concrete barrier.

The graffiti on the track was not the first time Senna’s name had been writ large in tribute to his prodigious motor racing talent - a million Brazilians lined the streets of Sao Paulo at his funeral, and when his body was laid to rest in the Morumbi Cemetery, there was a fly-past by the Brazilian air force, whose pilots drew an ‘S’ and a heart in the sky above.

Senna was three times Formula One World Champion, in 1988, 1990 and 1991, each time for McLaren. Then, in 1994, he switched to Williams-Renault in pursuit of what was, by then, the best car. It was a fateful decision. Senna disagreed with the FIA’s decision to restrict the use of high technology in Formula One cars, saying, “It’s a great error to remove the electronics from the cars. (They) are very fast and difficult to drive. It is going to be a season of accidents. We’ll be really lucky if something serious doesn’t happen.’

Sadly, Formula One was not ‘really lucky’. At Imola, Austrian debutant, Roland Ratzenberger, was killed in practise. In the race proper, there was a crash at the start and then, in the seventh lap, the world watched in horror as Senna’s car left the track on the Tamburello curve and slammed head-on into a concrete wall. The graffiti on the track the following year said it all, in a succinct tribute to a great sporting hero: ‘Ayrton - how can I forget you?’

It happened in 1995...

Football - Blackburn Rovers won the Premier League, and in doing so, denied Manchester United a hattrick of titles.

Golf - Big hitting American, John Daly, triumphed at St Andrew’s to win the British Open after a play-off with Costantino Rocca.

THE SURGE OF --- ANTICIPATION



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