

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

Review Club

VOLUME 32 - Issue 7, 2019



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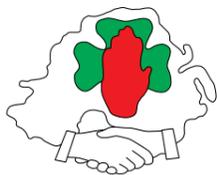
The Federation Invite New Members to Join

By joining the N.I. Federation of Clubs you will benefit from support by way of advice on a host of matters related to the day-to-day running of a club, such as those related to employment, the 1996 Clubs Order and Accountancy Regulations and rates relief to mention but a few.

Our helplines have proved most beneficial to members and are as follows:

07889 800329 - 07889 800331 - 07889 800325 & 07889 681714

N.I. Federation of Clubs Membership Application Form



Name of club:

Address:

Telephone No:

Fax No:

Club Officers

Chairman:

Tel:

Secretary:

Tel:

Treasurer:

Tel:

The annual membership fee is £50.00 payable to:

The Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs
c/o Unit B7 Portview Trade Centre,
310 Newtownards Road,
Belfast BT4 1HE.

For telephone queries call:
07889 681714

(Please include your membership fee or completed standing order form with your application)

For administration purposes only

Accepted by: Secretary

Seconded by: Chairman

Date:

STANDING ORDER TO N.I. FEDERATION OF CLUBS

This is to authorise the transfer of £50.00 from the club's account:-

A/C No:

Sort Code:

Bank:

To account no: 627 998 63
Sort code: 95-01-45

Danske Bank
Belfast BT1 6JS

The payment is for the annual membership fee to the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs. The transaction to be effected now and continue annually in January of each year until further notice.

Club Name:

Address:

Please sign and return to:

N.I. Federation of Clubs,
c/o Unit B7, Portview Trade Centre,
310 Newtownards Road,
Belfast BT4 1HE.

Authorised by: (1)

(2)

Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Hosted by the Whitehouse Working Men's Club, on Wednesday 16th October 2019

The Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting, following which he requested that the secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were subsequently read out and passed as a true record by Gerry Gallagher and Brian McCartney.

It was suggested by Joe Patterson, that the Labour Relations Agency (LRA) be contacted on the issue of a member being employed and having to resign their membership during the period of their employment.

A lengthy discussion took place on the extensive list of UK licensing bodies, which could potentially target the club sector. This has been due to the proliferation of calls received by member clubs by MCPL, who are attempting to force our members to purchase a license

The Secretary has suggested that clubs could opt to use the parental control on televisions to limit which programmes are available, as the license is not required for music, news or sport.

The Chairman is adamant that PPL/PRS should be sufficient, which the Secretary supported, by saying that PPL/PRS is the collecting body for its parallel licensing bodies throughout the world.

Joe Patterson made comment on that part of club rating on which we obtained a legal opinion. This was related to the area around a dance floor, which, we feel, should be afforded de-rating status.

It was thought that we should continue to prepare a case to challenge the rating authority on this aspect of rating.

The Chairman read the content of an email and consultation document on licensing, which needs to be submitted by the Federation as part of the consultation process. The Federation have already submitted an earlier response to the Communities Department, which should be sufficient for the purpose. Nevertheless, we will compare our earlier response to ensure accuracy.

The Chairman continued to highlight aspects of the document just received, which received comment by the committee.

The Treasurer, Davy Larmour, presented a financial report, which was covered in some detail, and which was passed as a true record of our financial affairs to date, by Tommy McMinn and Phillip Mallon.

A request that CORCA meetings be held either on a Tuesday or a Wednesday to allow us to have our meetings on the second Wednesday each month, thus avoiding conflict with the CORCA meeting dates. This would only change in the event of the All Party Parliamentary Group meeting being held on the second Wednesday, which is unlikely.

The meeting was concluded with the Chairman expressing thanks to Whitehouse Working Mens Club and P&F



Federation Executive Committee members with management and staff of the Whitehouse Working Men's Club, following their monthly meeting.

Amusements for the facilities and the hospitality provided for today's meeting.

Harry Beckinsale
Secretary,
N.I. Federation of Clubs



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Update on CORCA meeting hosted by the CIU at London HQ

Federation officers travelled to the latest CORCA (*Confederation of Registered Clubs Association*) meeting in London on Wednesday 9th October 2019.

It was particularly important to travel on this occasion, as we were unable to attend the previous meeting, and importantly, we were asked to forward items for the agenda which on this occasion was appropriate. In particular, we had a request to discuss matters on behalf of Sky's National Development Manager in order to develop an association with CORCA members.

Of course this could not accommodate the arrangement

we have in Northern Ireland, due to aspects of the rating system which is quite different in mainland UK.

During and following the meeting, we did however recommend engaging with Sky TV, to which there was a positive response. We took the precaution of assuring details were appropriate with our colleagues at Sky TV, to avoid compromising both them and ourselves.

The Federation Chairman, John Davidson, made reference to the long list of UK licensing bodies which could target our member clubs, in a similar way to MCPL, which is proving to be a thorn in

the side of our members and our colleagues in mainland UK.

The Chairman asked that the APPG (*All Party Parliamentary Group*) at Westminster table the MCPL issue for discussion, which if permitted to continue, could open the door for the numerous other UK Licensing bodies to commence targeting the club sector.

Following the meeting, appreciation was expressed for the information we had brought with us, which is intended to be of assistance to all member associations of CORCA.

Our ability to challenge issues is admired by our UK associates,

which of course is due to some extent on the size and parochial nature of the province. Nevertheless, those parts of legislation which are, for the most part, common across the UK, could be focused on to a greater extent.

The meeting was concluded a little earlier than usual due to the Chairman, Lord Smith, having to leave promptly, possibly due to urgent matters at Westminster, which is understandable given the Brexit situation. However, the meeting fulfilled the issues on the agenda, which will hopefully, in the fullness of time, include a focus being made on licensing bodies via the APPG.

Urgent Linneweber update - act now

Any Clubs which have received a letter from HMRC regarding the Linneweber 1/Rank Claim need to **act swiftly** to respond. We explain how to respond and provide template documents. **For the originals, please visit www.nifederationofclubs.com/downloads/** and you can download copies in Word format. **We give thanks to the CIU and Ian Spencer for their assistance with this guidance.**

Guidance:

There are two letters that need to be sent by each club that has received a letter from HMRC. The first letter is to HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) - setting out that the club wishes to amend its appeal to include an appeal against the protective assessment issued by HMRC. The first template needs to be completed and sent by the Club

(together with a copy of the HMRC letter - NB this should be a copy not the original).

The second letter is to HMRC with a copy of the first letter that the Club has sent to HMCTS. Template 2 is the guide.

The first letter (HMCTS blank) - you need to send the letter on Club letter-headed paper (where possible) and fill in;

- The date of the letter
- The name of your club
- The tribunal reference (which should be on HMRCs letter and starts with MAN or LON or TC, then has a year reference (usually 2006 or 2007) and then a four or five digit reference number)
- The month the protective assessment was issued (which is detailed on HMRCs letter to the club)

- Near the bottom the name of the person signing the letter
- That person's position at the club (e.g. Club secretary, treasurer, chairman etc)
- The name of the club
- Finally, at the very bottom the date of HMRCs letter

The second letter (HMRC blank) - you need to send the letter on Club letter-headed paper (where possible) and fill in;

- The date of the letter
- The name of your club
- The tribunal reference (which should be on HMRCs letter and starts with MAN or LON or TC, then has a year reference (usually 2006 or 2007) and then a four or five digit reference number)
- The date of HMRCs letter to the club

- Near the bottom the name of the person signing the letter
- That person's position at the Club (e.g. club secretary, treasurer, chairman etc)
- The name of the club
- Finally, at the very bottom the date of the club's letter to HMCTS

Please do not ignore the letter if it has been received by the Club.

If HMRC/HMCTS do not hear from any club that wishes to have its appeal against the protective assessment included in its original appeal HMRC will take action to have the original appeal struck out-which if successful would mean that any club in this position would not get a repayment in the event that the lead case of Rank is successful.

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RETAIL SERVICES



Template 1

HM Courts & Tribunal Service
First Tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber)
4th Floor, 54 Hagley Road
PO Box 16972
Birmingham
B16 6TZ

Insert date here 2019

Dear Sirs

Appellant: *Insert club name here*

Reference: *Insert tribunal reference here*

Further to correspondence recently received from HMRC, we wish to apply to the Tribunal to amend our notice of appeal to include an appeal against HMRC's protective assessment, issued in or around **insert month referred to in HMRCs letter stating when the protective assessment was raised** to recover the moneys originally repaid in respect of the claim covered by the original appeal.

We understand from HMRC that they will not object to this application and attach a copy of HMRC's letter confirming this.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact the author of this letter at the address shown.

Yours faithfully

Insert authors name here
Insert authors position here
Insert club name here

enc. HMRC's letter dated *insert date of HMRCs letter here*
cc. HMRC Solicitors Office

Template 2

HM Revenue & Customs
Solicitors Office
VAT Litigation
Dispute Resolution
Appeals and Reviews
S0987
Newcastle
NE98 1ZZ

Insert date here 2019

Dear Sirs

Appellant: *Insert club name here*

Reference: *Insert tribunal reference here*

Please find attached the application to the Tribunal to amend the grounds of appeal to include an appeal against the protective assessment issued by HMRC as suggested in your letter of **insert date here** 2019.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the author of this letter at the address shown.

Yours faithfully

Insert authors name here
Insert authors position here
Insert club name here

enc. Copy letter to HMCTS dated *insert date here*

Federation strongly advise members to follow procedures

Federation Officers recently visited a member club, to provide advice on guidance, to resolve some important issues.

Whilst situations can be challenging, particularly when dealing with personalities, it is important that the management committee are united in working in the best interests of the club and its members.

In private member clubs, as in any other facet of business, Human Resources, present difficulties, due to employment legislation.

As our Federation Executive colleague, Joe Patterson, experienced in this field, continually tells us at our AGM, the thing which creates most difficulty, is the failure to follow procedures.

Additionally, and particularly for those clubs insured by Rollins Club Insurance, which is the majority of our members, cover is provided for employment issues. That being said, it is of the utmost importance to contact the insurers as soon as possible, and to be guided by them throughout the process. By doing so, it is more likely the

matter will be resolved in the Clubs best interests.

I'm afraid the days of showing someone the door, without investigating the detail of an offence, and following the dismissal and/or grievance procedure, could well result in being financially costly.

Nevertheless, club management committees should be aware that they are what is known as a semi-quasi judicial body. This means that they have the same power as any court, providing the rules pertaining to natural justice are followed.

If someone is brought before the management committee, the person in question must be afforded the right of appeal, with the said appeal being before an arbitration, or appeal panel, which must not consist of anyone who sat on the initial hearing.

Members should be fully aware that the Federation are here to assist them, we deal with many queries on a daily basis, and will visit a club if requested. Furthermore, we will only do so by invitation, and will not become involved in the innermost business of the club, only in an advisory capacity.

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You cannot escape your fire safety obligations... Part 3 of The Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and The Fire Safety Regulations (Northern

Ireland) 2010 came into effect on 15th November 2010.

As an appropriate person with control over non-domestic, industrial, commercial, leisure, educational or healthcare premises, this legislation requires that you take responsibility for ensuring your premises reach the required fire safety standard.

It is the policy of NIFRS to pro-actively manage fire safety and to seek a reduction in the number of fires, fire-related deaths and injuries, unwanted fire signals, through the effective and efficient enforcement of all fire safety



legislation for which it has responsibility.

Are you the appointed responsible person for Fire Safety in your club?

If you are, then it's your legal responsibility to ensure a quality fire risk assessment has been performed and any companies hired to carry out required safety works are competent.

Call MKB today on 028 9453 0968 and let the experts take control of all your fire safety needs.

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Fergus Thompson, Stadium Facilities Manager, Ulster Rugby.



Paddy Maguire, inducted into British Ex-Boxers Hall of Fame

We are delighted to congratulate former bantamweight Belfast boxer Paddy Maguire, who has been inducted into the British Ex-Boxers Hall of Fame, at a ceremony held recently in London, hosted by former world champion, John Conteh.

A native of Belfast, Paddy represented Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games in 1966, winning a silver medal in the bantamweight division.

Professional career highlights Following on from an excellent amateur career, Paddy turned professional, with his first fight in the professional ranks being on 4th March 1969, when he fought Bernard Nicholls, winning on points.



A Jubilant Paddy Maguire holds the British Bantamweight belt aloft after defeating old foe, Dave Needham, by TKO.

His first title fight was on 20th February 1973 at the Royal Albert Hall, where he fought for the vacant British bantamweight title, losing on points to his opponent, Johnny Clark, who took the title on his third attempt.

For Paddy, a second attempt at the title followed on the 10th December 1974, at the Nottingham Ice Rink, against Dave Needham, with Paddy once again losing on points.

However, determination was never in short supply, and on 20th October 1975, Paddy's third attempt to win the British bantamweight title was successful, when he once again met Dave Needham, this time winning by a technical knockout in the 14th round.

Paddy had two unsuccessful attempts to win the European Boxing Union (EBU) bantamweight title. His first attempt taking place at Cluses, France on 16th January 1976, against Daniel Trioulaire, which resulted in a draw.

Paddy's second attempt took place at Cagliari, Sardinia, on 28th September 1977, against Franco Zurlo, who won the fight on a technical knockout in the eighth round.

Paddy fought his last bout on 29th November 1977, at the National Sporting Club, Piccadilly, losing by technical knockout in the eleventh round to relative newcomer, Johnny Owen.

Some memories from Paddy's past include his close friendship with boxer Muhammad Ali, and a reputed sparring session with Conservative politician, Colin Moynihan, which is recorded in Hansard, as the MP having sparred with the retired Maguire at the Thomas à Becket public house on London's Old Kent Road.



Paddy Maguire proudly displays his certificate and award inducting him into the British Ex-Boxers Hall of Fame

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Questions & Answers



Q. I am a Member of my local social club and have a number of questions I would like my Club's Committee to answer. Some of them are financial in basis but others revolve around individual Committee Members. Is my Club's

Committee obliged to answer my questions or can I use the Freedom of Information Act to obtain the information I am looking for?

A. A Club's Committee is only obliged to provide to the Club's Members the Minutes from the previous AGM and a copy of the Club's yearly accounts. These documents should be made available to the Members each year in advance of the Club's AGM. Whilst Members can request additional information from the Committee, the Committee is not obliged to provide the requested information. A Committee will likely review such requests on a case by case basis before deciding if to make available the requested information or not. I would imagine many of your

questions regarding the Club's finances would be answered by reviewing the Club's published accounts for the 2018 financial year.

The Freedom of Information Act only applies to Public Organisations, and Private Clubs are not included within this category. This information is stated on the official page regarding Freedom of Information requests - <https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request> - The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) gives you the right to access recorded information held by public sector organisations.

I can also confirm that Committee Minutes are considered confidential and cannot be released to Members unless the Committee specifically authorises such a release. Without a specific Committee decision to release the Minutes, they are not available for view or inspection by Club Members.

Members who have an interest in the management and running of the Club are always encouraged to stand for election to the Club's Committee where they can play an active role in the Club's management and decision making process.

Q. Historically, our employees have been allowed to have the occasional alcoholic drink whilst working. Most of the time this is fine, although there have been a few occasions when arguable an employee has had too many drinks and this affects their job performance. Do you have any advice regarding how many drinks an employee can be permitted to have each shift?

A. I think the Committee must give consideration to removing

the right for employees to drink whilst on duty.

Your employees have a legal obligation not to serve anyone who is intoxicated, in addition to other requirements such as not serving people who are underage. I am not convinced that an employee who themselves is under the influence of alcohol is best placed to make decisions about the sobriety of the people they are serving. I also think if the Club ever has any problems with your licensing authority, that it will do you any favours if you have to admit that it is Club policy to allow your employees to drink whilst on duty. If a difficult situation arises at the Club and medical attention needs to be sought or a disruptive customer needs to be handled, I think that your employees are better placed to handle such incidents if they themselves are sober.

I think that a firm 'no drinking on duty' policy is easier to enforce than 'You're allowed one/two drinks' whilst on duty.

Q. We have some Members who rarely use the Club but often put their names down for election to the Committee. Some of the Committee are concerned regarding their motives for the Club and are wondering if we should prevent these Members from standing. Perhaps impose a requirement that a candidate for election to the Committee must have visited the Club a certain number of times in the preceding 12 months?

A. Whilst I note the concerns of the Committee, the Clubs' Rules allow any Club Member to stand for election to the Committee and there are no restrictions currently in place regarding who can stand as a

candidate. Once the candidates have been proposed and seconded, the remaining Club Members can vote for their preferred candidates which is ultimately the check and balance - the Members must use their good judgement in deciding who to elect to the Committee. The Committee therefore do not have the right to restrict candidates they do not like from standing. I am sure you can appreciate how such a power would be open to abuse. In theory, it would be possible to put in a qualifying element to the election rules, that a Member has had to visit the Club x number of times per year before being eligible to stand although in practice I think it could be difficult to enforce this as it would be very difficult to monitor specific attendance levels of every Club Member.

On a more general point, if there are Members who pay a subscription fee but then do not frequently use the Club then there could be argued that having some of these Members on the Committee may be beneficial. After all, whilst it is easy to get the 'hard-core' Club Members to use the Club, the Club's revenues would be dramatically increased by encouraging those Members who seldom visit the Club to use the Club more. Therefore, do not automatically write off the ideas that such Members could bring to the Committee

even if in your eyes they are not regular attendees of the Club.

In any business it's easy to become blinded to issues as you see them every day but a fresh pair of eyes can often pinpoint issues you cannot see. A wide range of voices on the Committee is a very desirable outcome and allows you to draw on a comprehensive range of experience and views which should be a benefit to the Club.

Q. We only have one candidate for the position of Chairman, so we understand that they'll be elected automatically without a contest. Several Members have asked if they can be allowed to vote for or against this person. Is this permissible?

A. If there is only one candidate for the position of Chairman then they will be automatically elected at the AGM. There's no way to challenge such an appointment and the Members are unable to vote against this person's election if they are the sole person standing for the position. The Members can, of course, remove the Chairman at any time by calling for a SGM. We would also encourage Members to stand for positions to ensure a contest is created to allow Members to vote for their preferred candidate.

If you have any questions you need answered for your club, then please send them to us at: info@nifederationofclubs.com

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Derriaghy CC team up with Emerge Counselling

Derriaghy Cricket Club are celebrating their centenary year in 2020 and recently teamed up with local mental health charity, Emerge Counselling Services, as its official centenary charity partner.



Emerge Counselling Services is a suicide and self-harm prevention centre based in Lisburn. They offer one to one counselling to all members of the community who may be struggling with their mental health.

Emerge Counselling was created due to the recent surge of suicides in the Lisburn and Castlereagh areas, an issue that has sadly affected the club in recent years.

Derriaghy Cricket Club have a number of fundraisers planned in conjunction with Emerge Counselling Services across their centenary celebrations, the first of which was a Summer Draw which was held recently. Club President Graham Kenny is pictured here presenting Samantha Evans from the charity with a cheque following this draw.

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Rollins Insurance Brokers and the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs

Going from strength to strength after 30 years

Shortly after the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs was formed, a relationship with T. Oscar Rollins & Company was established, which has continued to this day.

In February 1989, Federation Chairman, John Davidson, engaged in a meeting with Dermot Rollins of T. Oscar Rollins & Company to discuss the specific insurance requirements of clubs throughout Northern Ireland.

At that time there was no major interest from local insurance companies in respect to insuring clubs, as most were deemed to be high risk, which as a result, reflected high premiums. Due to the excessive premiums, it looked likely that some clubs may have been forced to close.

However, T. Oscar Rollins & Company, after a great deal of effort, were able to persuade a major insurer of clubs in England to begin writing business in the province at competitive premiums, which was to herald the beginning of a very long and excellent relationship, with T. Oscar Rollins & Company becoming established as the 'go to' insurance brokers for the club sector.

Rollins Insurance Brokers and the N.I. Federation of Clubs have worked together in assisting clubs to resolve numerous issues, such as risk management, together with general advice to help reduce

the potential for a number of claims and therefore keep costs down.

Over the years, Rollins have continued to make the N.I. Federation of Clubs aware of the changes in the insurance landscape, and have been to the forefront in making sure clients are aware of the need to have other forms of insurance, such as employment advice and insurance through 'DAS', also persuading them to have directors and officers insurance to protect officers and committee members for decisions that they make on behalf of their club.

Rollins Insurance Brokers remain the major insurance broker of clubs in Northern Ireland, and while there may have been changes in the insurance landscape over the years, they have still been able to source competitive premiums with policies specifically suited for the many and varied types of club.

Commenting on the relationship, Dermot Rollins said, "I have enjoyed being heavily involved in club land for the last 30 years and have cemented relationships with numerous clubs, thankfully



(L-R Harry Beckinsale, NIFC Secretary; John Davidson, NIFC Chairman; Dermot Rollins; and Davy Larmour, NIFC Treasurer.

being in a position to provide various insurance products.

"I consider the business relationships that have built up, to be more of a friendship than purely business. I have stated on numerous occasions, that a club is an environment for like-minded individuals to meet and socialise, and I am delighted, that over the years, I have been able to give something back to various clubs by sponsoring a range of events.

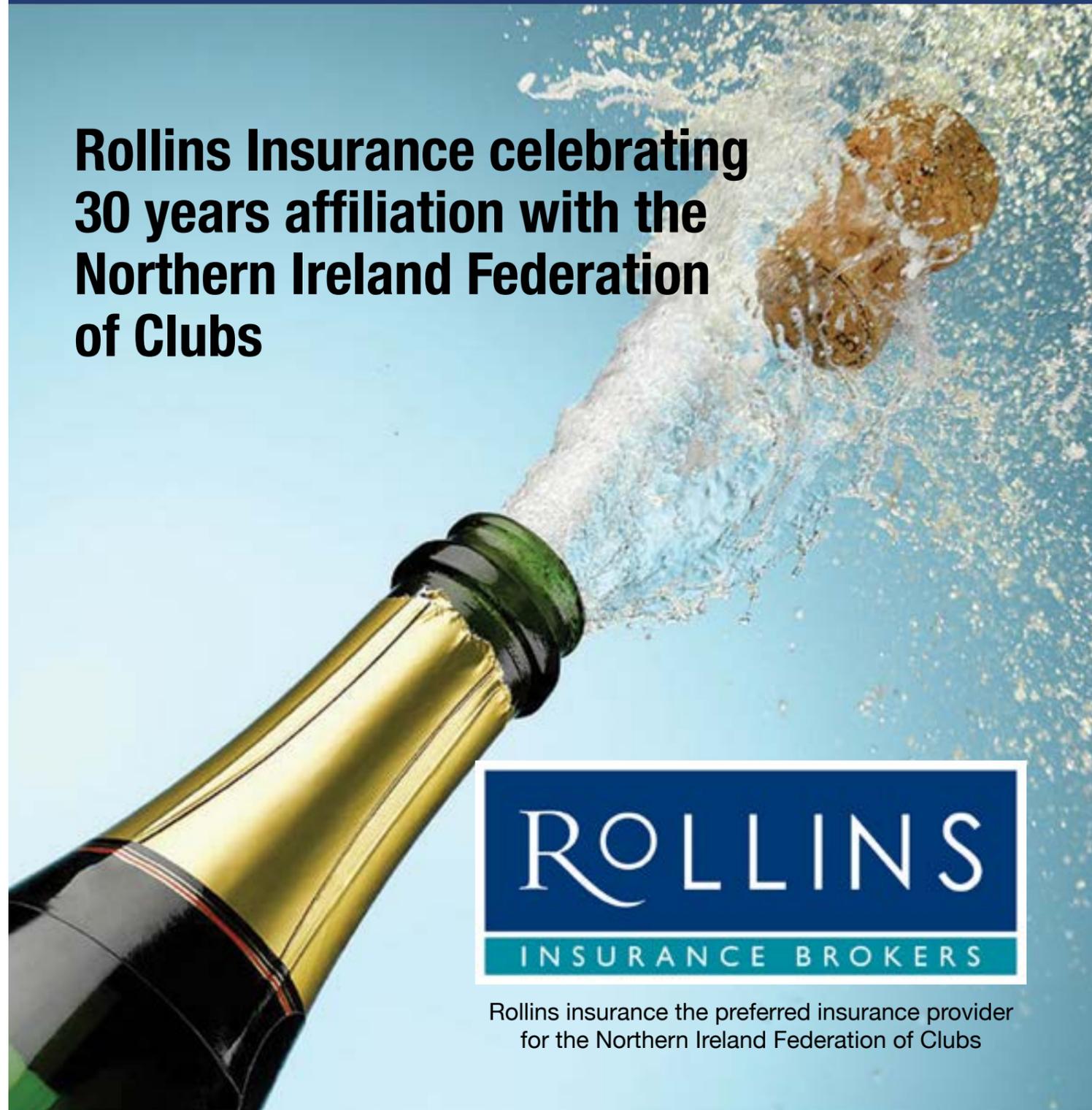
"The continued support of the club sector is an intrinsic

part of our business, and our association with the N.I. Federation of Clubs is one that is rare in this modern day and age."

In reply, NIFC Chairman, John Davidson, said, "Insurance is something required, but one hopes will not need to be called upon, but when it is, it is important to have a provider you can rely upon. This has been the important support provided by Rollins Insurance Brokers throughout our long association."

Rollins, for all your personal and commercial insurance needs

Rollins Insurance celebrating 30 years affiliation with the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs



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Financial control management

All clubs must rely on the honesty and integrity of their elected officers and committee members. However, betrayal of trust can take many forms - taking a bottle or two out of stock, the odd free drink or some loose change, or several thousand pounds from the club's funds.

Fortunately, such thefts are not a regular occurrence but every committee must be aware that such unhappy incidents can, and do, take place. Club funds provide the lifeblood of the club and its activities and theft is not a crime without a victim. All members of the club are victims of such a crime and it is not a matter that can just be wished away or ignored.

For many years, it has been recommended that every club should have fidelity insurance within its insurance policy. Obviously this will involve extra expense for the club but it is money well spent to ensure that the club is protected against the defaults of a trusted officer or employee. Such insurance should cover all the club officers and stewards who handle cash at some time in the course of their duties. This is in addition to the steward's bond.

There is no doubt that even suggesting the possibility of fidelity insurance at a committee meeting will cause a great deal of embarrassment that serving officers and employees are actually being accused of dishonesty. Such embarrassment is misplaced however. Committees should act in the best interests of the club and it is no insult to suggest that the names of certain officers be added to

the insurance. It is no slight on their character. It does not mean there are any suspicions or that rumours are circulating about their honesty.

Financial Controls Checklist

- One club officer should be present each day with the steward to check the takings from the till(s); this will provide an independent check of cash takings against till readings
- Tills should be serviced regularly and there should be strict control of till roll issues and usage; any till that is reported out of order frequently should be treated with suspicion and investigated
- All completed till rolls should be returned to the Treasurer
- Takings should be banked daily and two people should take the money to the bank; for the security of those involved, times and routes taken should vary
- The Treasurer should produce the latest bank statements at each committee meeting and the committee must never be put off by any excuse for the statements not being produced
- Blank cheques should never be signed - this seems an obvious safeguard but it can be overlooked
- If books are said to be 'with the auditors,' the Chairman or Secretary should confirm that this is so
- The Secretary or another committee member should always be present at stocktaking
- Ideally, there should be no more than two keys to the bar or cellar stocks - one should be held by the steward and another by the Secretary

or a designated committee member who must never lend it out

- If stocktaking reveals stock shortages there must be an immediate investigation
- Independent stock checks should be made on deliveries from time to time and irregularly
- Do not forget the importance of fidelity insurance and to comply with the requirements imposed by the insurance policy

It is vital that no one person is left to handle everything, however willing he or she may be to take on such an onerous burden. Clubs will benefit from shared responsibilities and double checks.

Gaming Machine Finance

A club's gaming machines are, without doubt, the most common area of concern in respect of thefts. It is essential that a proper, recognised system of emptying the gaming machines is established not only to protect the club but also to protect the committee from malicious accusations of theft.

The following procedure is recommended to clubs:

- The keys to gaming machines should not be held by one person or should be only accessible from a double-locked key safe where the keys are held by more than one official. Machines should be emptied separately and records kept of the cash from every machine. Wherever possible, the two officials who are responsible for this procedure should involve any club member and the count should never be done behind closed doors. For all

emptying, a duplicate cash book should be used and the date and the amount recorded with all members concerned signing that the figures are correct. If the cash is then handed to the steward for safe keeping or change then a receipt should be obtained.

- A separate book should be kept where the amounts taken are recorded together with the total at the end of the week. This book should also contain the meter readings of each machine. The meter readings should be calculated by the example shown below.
- Most modern machines have a 'coin in' meter and a 'coin out' meter and the digits are normally units of 10p or £1. In both cases the meter reading for the previous week is subtracted from the reading for this week. The balance for the 'coin out' meter is then deducted from the balance of the 'coin in' meter. Some gaming machines have £1 'coin in' and 10p 'coin out' meters so care should be taken to establish what the nominal profit is each week.
- It is very important that all the tubes or hoppers of the machine are filled to the same level each week from the cash boxes before the final count takes place. Unless this is done it will be impossible to reconcile the nominal profit with the actual takings.

By following this checklist it is possible to spot any problems that may arise with any machine and its takings. The committee is also able to see which machine is performing best and whether any machine needs to be changed.

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John Linehan

A tribute to a naturally talented man



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

It is with pleasure that I pen this tribute to the Northern Ireland legend of comedy, John Linehan MBE. and his famed alter ego, May McFettridge.

John was born in North Belfast in 1952, following a path to his chosen career of motor mechanic.

He was asked to ring into a radio show, hosted by relative and friend Eamonn Holmes, doing so in character as May, a straight talking, middle-aged woman from Belfast. The result was hilarious, with listeners calling for more. This led to May McFettridge becoming a regular on Downtown Radio.

Hence a star was born, and a character which was to become loved by young and old alike, with community-wide appeal.

John is a master of his craft, quick witted and extremely funny, with an unequalled ability to read an audience.

May McFettridge has the distinction of having topped the bill at The Grand Opera House's pantomime for almost three decades, and is undoubtedly 'Queen of the Dames'.

On 2nd of December 2014, John was presented with a bust of May McFettridge, in recognition of twenty five years of consecutive pantomime performances at the Grand Opera House, where it remains on display in the Grand Circle.

John has made many television appearances raising funds for Children in Need, and has worked tirelessly for charity throughout his career, including golf tournaments; he has also raised funds for the 'Children Caught In Crossfire' charity, being recognised for his

charitable work in 2006 when he was awarded an MBE.

John's character is as versatile as they come, making his debut in 2019 in the opera, Die Fledermaus, in the role of Frosh the Jailer. There is still a little bit of ad lib from May, but not too much as to steal anyone's thunder.

John and his wife Brenda have two daughters, and reside in North Belfast, not far from his childhood home.

He continues to be a keen golfer, indeed one could be forgiven for asking where, in such a busy life, he gets the time to play!

May McFettridge is as popular as ever, and the character created by John will go down in the annals of history as one of the all time comedy greats to emerge from the province.

I have arranged for John to join me at Belfast 89fm on the 'Funday Sunday Club' soon, and to be honest, I cannot wait. The craic is sure to be great in the presence of such a naturally talented funny man.

Good on you John, long may you continue to bring laughter to one and all!

Nigel



John Linehan's famous alter ego, May McFettridge.



John Linehan, in more sober attire.

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It's an action-packed November with Sky Sports

Sky Sports presents another packed month of content, all designed to help venues keep their customers entertained. There's football action from the Premier League, EFL and the final round of Euro 2020 Qualifiers, plus coverage on the 2019 Grand Slam of Darts and the culmination of the 2019 Formula 1 season.

Sky Sports has the first pick of Premier League matches every weekend, so licensees can rely on Sky to bring their customers the biggest head-to-heads throughout the season.

November sees a number of top six clashes including Liverpool v Manchester City and Manchester City v Chelsea. Other matches throughout the month include newly-promoted Sheffield United host Manchester United at Bramall Lane on Super Sunday on 24th November and the next day sees Aston Villa vs Newcastle.

A West London derby between Fulham and QPR kicks a busy weekend of EFL football off in style with two further games that weekend as Charlton face Cardiff and Middlesbrough take on Hull. The last weekend in

November sees Fulham travel to Swansea in a Friday night kick-off, while Charlton meet Sheffield Wednesday on the last Saturday of the month.

The final rounds of the Euro 2020 Qualifiers also take place in November, with the tables currently not holding many surprises. A strong performance from the Republic of Ireland so far sees them sitting pretty at the top of Group D but they'll need a good result against Denmark in their final match in order to confirm qualification. Your members won't want to miss out on any of the action and we have everything you need to promote each of the games along with top tips on how to make the most of the Qualifiers on MySkySports.com.

Formula 1 heads to America as we hit the home stretch this season. At the start of the month, the US Grand Prix heads to Austin, where Leclerc defeated Lewis Hamilton last year. The penultimate race of the season is the Brazilian Grand Prix, held in Sao Paulo, which Hamilton won for the first time in his career last season. There are high hopes he can take the victory again this year.



All pictures courtesy of Getty Images.

Venues should make sure they've registered with MySkySports.com to receive their regular emails to help promote and plan upcoming fixtures; plus they can order free monthly poster packs and share

upcoming fixtures on their social media channels, all with just one click.



An exciting month of sport is ahead of us and these are the fixtures not to be missed;

OCTOBER	
26th October.....	Burnley v Chelsea
27th October.....	Newcastle v Wolves
NOVEMBER	
6th November	Crystal Palace v Leicester Everton v Leicester F1 USA Grand Prix
10th November	Liverpool v Manchester City
17th November.....	F1 Brazil Grand Prix
22nd November	Fulham v QPR
23rd November	Manchester City v Chelsea Charlton v Cardiff
24th November	Middlesbrough v Hull Sheffield United v Manchester United
25th November	Aston Villa v Newcastle
26th November	Reading v Leeds
27th November	QPR v Nottingham
30th November	Newcastle v Manchester City



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Win a fantastic trip to London for two

A super five-star hotel stay in magnificent London, plus brunch on the glamorous Belmond British Pullman train, is up for grabs in the Cancer Focus Northern Ireland autumn raffle which is raising funds for breast cancer research.

The top prize includes return flights, a 5-course feast on the Belmond British Pullman, sister train to the Orient Express, tickets to a West End show and plenty of time for shopping and sightseeing.

The leading local cancer charity, in association with Oasis Travel, Northern Ireland's largest independent travel agency, are offering an overnight stay in the sumptuous five star Ruben's at the Palace Hotel, which overlooks Buckingham Palace.

You'll be flown out on Saturday, 29th February, 2020 and return the next day. The closing date for the raffle is Friday, November 29th, and the draw will be made at midday on Monday, December 4th.

Breast cancer survivor, Claire Williamson from Belfast, says more research into the disease is essential. Claire and husband Paul were enjoying family life

with their young boys Charlie (10) and Jamie (5) when she was diagnosed in October 2015.

Claire found a lump on her breast which had spread to her lymph nodes and had to go through a lumpectomy, chemotherapy, radiology and various other drugs over the following years.

"I don't think doctors can ever tell you 'you're in the clear' and I have the type of cancer that is most likely to recur, which is why I am so passionate about research.

"Cancer and chemo took a year out of my life. The research that Cancer Focus NI supports at Queen's University Belfast is absolutely critical and determines how we deal with the future and how we move forward, protecting ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

"Every penny that Cancer Focus NI raises stays in Northern Ireland. So please, take part in this raffle or make a donation and help fund local breast cancer research. Give hope for future generations in Northern Ireland. You may even win a trip to London!"



Joanne Smith (left) and Alyson Kerr from Cancer Focus NI urge everyone to buy a lottery ticket for this super trip to London for two. To get your ticket call Sarah on 028 9068 0745 today!

Cancer Focus NI's direct marketing manager Ollie Govett said, "Every ticket you buy helps to advance our research and gives you the chance to win this fantastic prize.

"One in eight women in Northern Ireland will get breast cancer and that's why our research is vital. We couldn't continue this work without donations from supporters like you. We do not receive government funding for our research, so you can imagine just how vital donations are to our work."

Brendan Mallon, Retail Development Manager, Oasis Travel, said, "We're delighted to have the opportunity to support Cancer Focus

NI with this amazing raffle and its wonderful top prize. Many of our staff and customers have been affected by cancer, so when the opportunity to partner with a renowned local charity came our way we jumped at the chance. Hopefully, together we can help raise as much money as possible to assist with their invaluable work."

There are also six other great prizes to be won, so don't delay...

To buy raffle tickets call Sarah on 028 9068 0745 today!



UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winner

by Tony McGee

September belonged to the clubs with activity in every county during the month when titles were won and lost and many players sprang to prominence, but when the action was sifted through, the name of Paddy Cunningham rose to the top of the list, after the Lamh Dhearg attacker produced a number of top drawer performances during the month.

The will-o'-the-wisp corner forward was in excellent scoring form as, in four outings, he totted up a tally of 3-19, including 3-4 in one game and 0-11 in another, to help the Hannastown team into the Antrim SFC final. Lamh Dhearg had to play Portglenone three times before edging

through to the decider. Even a free-taking shoot-out wasn't going to separate the teams and at nine each a halt was called and another replay ordered.

"It was a bit of a marathon," recalled PE instructor Cunningham, who was preparing to take his third free, after scoring two, when the contest was halted.

However, things didn't work out for Paddy and his team-mates in the final but hopefully, winning the UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award for his part in taking Lamh Dhearg into the county final will be some consolation.

"It is a great honour to win this award and I am very grateful

to the Ulster GAA Writers for honouring me with it," said the 34-year-old St Mary's CBGS teacher at a presentation function in Quinn's Corner Roadhouse. "It does help a little to sooth the pain of defeat in the final, although, we are very disappointed in not beating Cargin."

The presentation to Paddy Cunningham was made by Quinn Building Products Sales and Marketing Director Seamus McMahan.



UGAAWA September Merit Award winner Paddy Cunningham (Lamh Dhearg) with son Pádraig. Picture by Jim Hamill.

Down Royal set for 'WKD' Festival of Racing

A €50,000 prize fund has been confirmed for the Grade 2 Hurdle on day one of the Down Royal Festival of Racing set to take place on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd November.

Sponsored once again by WKD, the Grade 2 Hurdle has attracted a wealth of talent to Down Royal Racecourse over the years.

Emma Meehan, Chief Executive of Down Royal Racecourse said, "Down Royal is now firmly on the map as one of Ireland's premier sporting destinations. We are delighted to have WKD on board once again as Premium Sponsor of day one

of the Festival and the Grade 2 WKD Hurdle, one of the highlights of the weekend. We have a long-standing partnership with the brand and are particularly excited to welcome them back to Down Royal as they launch an exciting new flavour to the WKD stable."

Gates open at 11am and the first race is at 12.45pm. General admission is £15 and tickets are available at the turnstiles on arrival. Children under 16 go free and free car parking is available.

For full details on the Festival of Racing or to book tickets please visit www.downroyal.com

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Linfield make it a double double



NIFWA Chairman, Stuart McKinley, presents Linfield's David Healy with the Belleek trophy for Manager of the Month

Linfield defender Mark Stafford has been named NIFWA Player of the Month for September.

The powerful centre-back helped the Blues to six

wins in the month, defeating Cliftonville, East Belfast, Glentoran, Ballinamallard United, Carrick Rangers and Glenavon. The Blues kept four clean sheets in the league, while Stafford weighed in with a goal against Carrick.

Upon collecting the Belleek trophy, Stafford said, "This is the first time I've won the

Linfield manager David Healy has won the NIFWA Manager of the Month award for the second time this season. He added the September award to his August trophy, thanks to wins over Cliftonville, East Belfast, Glentoran, Ballinamallard United, Carrick Rangers and Glenavon. The Blues finished the month with a 100% record.

Upon collecting the Belleek trophy, Healy said, "Thanks to the Football Writers' for this award, which I'm here as a figurehead of Linfield to collect on behalf of my players who once again have been excellent.

A lot of people spoke about a European hangover and were waiting for us to falter but we've come through six games unbeaten, with league wins over Cliftonville, Glentoran, Carrick and Glenavon - with clean sheets in all four of those matches - so we have had to work very hard."

Linfield's most impressive result in September was their 7-0 demolition of Glenavon.

Healy said, "In terms of the Glenavon result, they beat us 4-0 at Windsor on the day we lifted the title and that played into my team talk to an extent."

Carrying David

Two brothers: one fighting for his fame, the other fighting for his life!

Inspired by the love of his terminally ill brother David, on 3rd June 1989, Glenn McCrory (of Tyrone ancestry) made boxing history, becoming the Cruiserweight Champion of the World.

Carrying David is a one-man play reflecting the highs and lows of Glenn's drive and incredible sacrifice to become the first world champion from the North East of England.

Ed Waugh, who wrote Carrying David, a one-man play that is based on Glenn's autobiography, said, "I always knew David and Glenn's was a magnificent story. However, the performance of Micky Cochrane was sublime and Russell Floyd's direction was superb.

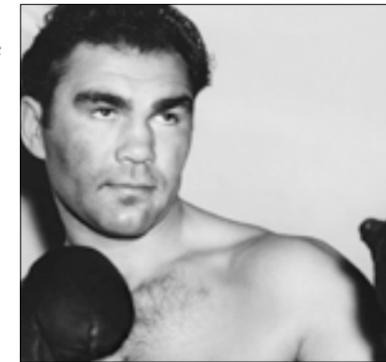
David Hull, of Belfast-based David Hull Promotions, will produce the one-man show in Ireland. David said, "Ed told me he had a new play that was very special. I followed the reports of the Carrying David tour online and spoke to people who attended. On hearing the feedback, reading the script and seeing the video, I quickly realised the play was something special. Hence fast-tracking the show to Northern Ireland for a brief run."

Carrying David will be performed at Downpatrick Arts Centre on Friday, 8th November, then the Old Court House, Antrim (Saturday 9th) and Lyric Theatre (Studio), Belfast, on Sunday 10th.

1981

Schmeling lays old foe to rest

Joe Louis was an all time great boxer. 25 consecutive title defences and 12 years as a world champion. Only one loss in his first 62 fights (a total of 65 wins out of 68 fights). But his greatness went far beyond the stats books as he lifted America when it was down during the Great Depression of the 1930s. He even united blacks and whites in an unprecedented way when he beat the German Max Schmeling in 1938 and created harmonious joy across America.



German heavyweight legend, Max Schmeling.

Two years earlier, in 1936, Schmeling surprised everyone when he travelled by boat to New York and beat the highly rated (but not then world champion) Joe Louis (who suffered his first loss). Schmeling had been world champion from 1930-32.

By the time the rematch came around, Nazi Germany was flexing its muscles and America was still suffering from the depression. President Roosevelt reputedly invited Louis to the White House to issue words of encouragement.

Two thirds of radio-owning Americans tuned in to hear the broadcast. It was over in 124 seconds with Louis winning savagely. The country exploded into its first racially integrated party. "There was never a Harlem like the Harlem of last night," reported the New York Daily News. "If you take a dozen Christmases, a score of New Year's Eves, a bushel of July Fourths and maybe, just maybe, you'd get a faint glimpse of the idea."

The New York World-Telegram reported, "One hundred years from now some historian may theorise, in a footnote at least, that the decline of Nazi prestige began with a left hook delivered by a former unskilled automotive worker who had never studied the policies of Neville Chamberlain and had no opinion whatever in regard to the situation in Czechoslovakia..."

Max Schmeling returned home to Germany alone. He went on to save several Jews from Nazi gangs. He was eventually recruited into the army, survived the war and finally started a Coca Cola bottling franchise. Meanwhile, after his boxing career ended, Joe Louis fell on hard times. It was reported by many that Schmeling not only sent financial assistance to Louis from time to time, but that he paid for Joe Louis's funeral when the great man, 'The Brown Bomber', was buried in 1981. It is a fact that he did in fact carry his old adversary's coffin.

Liverpool defeat Real Madrid

Liverpool fans of a certain vintage will have very fond memories of the last time these two great heavyweights of European football clashed on the biggest of stages.



How much would this trio cost in today's market? Souness, Dalglish and Hansen, a team of legends.

The Reds were a dominant force at home and abroad in the late 70s and early 80s, and the 1981 final in Paris gave Bob Paisley and Liverpool the chance to win a third European Cup in just five seasons.

Real Madrid, successful in the first five years of the competition, were in the final for the first time since their sixth triumph in 1966.

Liverpool were the better side in the first half, with Real goalkeeper Agustin Rodriguez saving efforts from Alan Kennedy and Graeme Souness. Real improved after the break, and Jose Antonio Camacho went close when he lobbed a shot over the bar. But the game became even more tense and tight in the closing stages.

Then came the decisive moment eight minutes from time, to the delight of thousands of Liverpool supporters at the Parc des Princes and millions more watching around the world.

A clever throw-in from Ray Kennedy found Alan Kennedy - back after breaking his wrist in the semi-final, first leg against Bayern Munich - and he burst past defender Rafael Garcia Cortes, before smashing the ball beyond Rodriguez.

It was the only goal of the game, earning Liverpool a 1-0 win and ensuring they were kings of Europe once again, picking up the trophy for a third time.

It happened in 1981...

Boxing - Larry Holmes defeated Trevor Berbick by a unanimous decision to retain the WBC heavyweight title.

Snooker - In the World Snooker Championship, Steve Davis defeated Doug Mountjoy 18-12.

Tennis - Chris Evert won the last of her three Wimbledon Ladies Singles finals, defeating Czechoslovakian player Hana Mandliková 6-2, 6-2.

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