

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

Review ^{Club}

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— INTRODUCING —

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Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Hosted by the Irish Republican Felons Club, Belfast, on Wednesday 13th February 2019

The Chairman opened the meeting, following which he requested the Secretary to read the minutes of the previous meeting, hosted by Philip Russell Ltd, on 9th January 2019.

Correspondence was covered, with explanations provided on such matters as PPL/PRS, and the MCPL License.

Calls continue to be received on the aforesaid MCPL license, and it appears as if they are generalising, in precisely what items the said license covers. Nevertheless, we continue to follow the stand taken in UK, which advises not to sign-up to this, unless we hear otherwise.

Golf clubs continue to contact us in respect to the Sky TV tariff, available to those clubs with Sport and Recreational Relief. Each of the clubs contacting the Secretary, have been advised that a golf club tariff has been in place for some years now, and provides a tariff which, in some cases, is lower, with a few being slightly higher.

A discussion took place on the forthcoming AGM, being held on 9th March 2019 in the RAOB HQ Club, Belfast. It was suggested by the Chairman that separate mailed invitations be sent to respective club secretaries, in addition to those included with Club Review.

The Chairman provided an overview of clubs facing closure, expressing regret at the loss of the Ulster Maple Leaf Club and the Ulster Sports Club, the latter having closed on New Years Eve.

The Secretary provided a further update on those suppliers, who have kindly continued to support us.

With the Legislative Assembly remaining in suspension, frustration continues in respect to amendments, which by now would have provided great benefit, to include amendments to the Clubs Order, Accounts Regulations and other issues, such as advertising etc.

As is the case with most months in the club year, employment/HR issues continue to cause issues on occasions. Our advice in respect to employment guidelines remains unchanged, in that club officials should call their club insurers in the first instance. Joe Patterson, will again provide advice on these matters at the Federation AGM, at which time he will underline the importance of liaising and being guided by the club insurers.

A financial report was provided by Treasurer, David Larmour. He also discussed membership renewals, with the majority now being received via standing order. Those which continue to pay by cheque are limited, and will be provided with renewal letters shortly.

The Federation AGM will be held in the RAOB HQ Club on 9th March 2019, at which we anticipate the usual excellent attendance.

At this point the Chairman closed the meeting, again expressing thanks to the Felons Club, for hosting the meeting,



Maria McAteer and Stevie Devlin from the Irish Republican Felons Club, Belfast, pictured with the Executive Committee following their February meeting.

and for the generous hospitality provided. Harry Beckinsale Secretary, NIFC

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in the R.A.O.B. Headquarters, Belfast, on Saturday 9th March 2019

The Secretary commenced the 2019 AGM by introducing the Chairman, John Davidson, who opened by inviting delegates to observe a minute's silence in respect of past members.

The Chairman expressed congratulations to Jim Crossan of Belfast City Hibs and Ivan Gillespie of Holywood Football & Social Club, with both clubs celebrating their centenary in 2019.

He then proceeded to invite the Secretary, Harry Beckinsale, to read the minutes of the 2018 AGM, also hosted by the RAOB HQ Club.

During his reading of the minutes, the Secretary commented on various items which continue to be an issue for the sector, such as amendments to legislation, with other items, such as our association with Sky TV and PPL/PRS, which continue to be helpful and beneficial.

The minutes were subsequently passed as a true record by the representative of Bready Cricket Club and Dougie Murray of Harland and Wolff Staff Club.

At this point, the Treasurer, David Larmour, provided a detailed financial report. In



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

particular he outlined the telephone charge, which was related to an ongoing query in respect to charges, with a refund of £900 already having been received.

The financial report was proposed and seconded as a true record by Meadowbank Social Club and Alvin Maginnis of Comber Bowling Club.

Moving on, the Chairman proceeded to move to items on the main agenda. An update on the long awaited amendments to the 1996 Clubs Order, which of course continue 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.

Entertainment Licensing also remains in limbo, with the agreed new format yet to be implemented. The new application process would present savings for applicants.

Rating of club premises was discussed, particularly in respect to the saving to be enjoyed on Sky TV tariffs. The association with Sky TV, and their local representative, David McKane, has been excellent in resolving issues in a mutually beneficial way. It was explained that clubs are required to have 20% of their premises used for a prescribed sport or recreation, which in turn provides sport and recreational relief of 80% on that percentage. Clubs can apply for reassessment of their rating, but we continue to advise clubs to engage the services of Rory Clark of McConnell, Chartered Surveyors, to assess the premises.

Club rule books/constitutions, were covered in respect to the said books being the guide via which to administer a club, which includes the need to comply with the requirements of natural justice.

Social media is impacting on clubs, in that it is being policed by numerous bodies, which can cause many issues. Of course, in some cases, notices may be placed by an individual without the club being aware.

PPL/PRS was covered next, with an explanation on the amalgamation of the two organisations. It was also explained that the local representative, Iain Webb, is available to resolve issues for our members, something which has happened on numerous occasions in the past.

A regular query is related to club trustees, and again the Chairman explained this area of club business in some detail. He explained why trustees are required. He also explained why individuals should consider, in some detail, whether to accept being a trustee or not. A case was explained, which caused some difficulty for club trustees in respect to a club closure.

Employment/HR issues are a regular source of concern. Covering this issue, we benefit from the experience of our Executive Committee Member, Joe Patterson, who is a former union official and tribunal officer. Joe explained some of the difficulties faced by clubs today. He outlined the importance of engaging with the employment aspect of the club insurance policy, which if not with Rollins Club Insurance, needs to be confirmed as forming part of your club policy. Some questions were raised from the floor, which Joe addressed.

Energy supplies is something to watch too, as Mark Rooney of MJ Utilities, our advisor in this area, has highlighted that members may have noticed an increase in their energy

continued on page 6



Bready Cricket Club and Royal British Legion.



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costs. Mark invites members to contact him, should they have any concerns.

At this point the Federation Accountant, Lawrence Shearer, provided detailed information on the new digital VAT returns procedure. He also touched on Auto Enrolment pensions and, importantly, on the long-running Linneweber VAT case, led by the Rank Organisation. He continued to say that the information, just recently received, had a closing date which had actually past. However, it was indicated that HMRC may be a little flexible, given the circumstances.

The Secretary provided an overview of the charity sector, and the importance of the support provided by our members, given the limited support provided by Government, with limited funding being provided to charitable bodies.

Continuing, he highlighted the understandable concern by a supplier, that product, coming from another source, was utilising their equipment. The company wished to underline that this presents many issues, not least of which is related to servicing of lines etc.

It was also indicated that the Federation only have an official association with Martin Dinsmore of StockTaking.Com, formerly known as the Computer Accounting Bureau. We have been unable to invoke a response from the other associate, Harris Systems, which was taken over, some time ago, throughout which time we have been attempting to engage.

Finally, further information was provided on Sky TV and the change in sport broadcasts from August 2019, when we have been informed BT Sport will be affected in respect to coverage,



Whiteabbey Royal British Legion Club.

whereas Sky, will have increased coverage of soccer and other sports from the USA.

This concluded the agenda. The Chairman thanked the RAOB

for hosting the AGM and for the hospitality provided.

Harry Beckinsale
Secretary, N.I.F.C.

Blue Blossom support group share their story

I recently had the privilege of interviewing Emily Jenkins and Joanna Betts from the Blue Blossom ASD/ADHD North Belfast Support Group. Both Ladies were very informative and are very proactive members of the group.

The group was formed in 2017, by Emily Jenkins, Leanne Smyth and Joanne Kirkpatrick, supporting parents of children affected by autism and ADHD. It began with a coffee morning, held at the Hub Community Resource Centre, which quickly developed into a weekly group, gathering every Saturday morning, for the safe and secure recreation of the children.

I recently attended one such Saturday morning session, where the children could avail of arts and craft projects and playtime sports activities. Parents and siblings were encouraged to take part in what I could only describe as a harmonious occasion. No child is the same, each with their own identity of circumstances relating to the ASD spectrum. Some having learning difficulties, and many having separate medical needs, or both.

Although the group was formed and is based in North Belfast, children attend from a much wider area, some from Glengormley, Rathcoole, and East Belfast.

Each child's birthday is celebrated at the Hub, creating a bonding with their peers, making friends, and hoping they realise they are extremely valued.

January 2019 saw a considerable increase in membership with new



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

leaders welcomed to assist the team.

Help is at hand seven days a week for parents who may need information, or perhaps just a coffee and a friendly ear to share any number of emotions that arise; they can receive comfort, understanding and support.

It is the groups intention to support parents, and children with ASD/ADHD, into adulthood and beyond and to help groups from other towns and communities to form their own groups. All are welcome to visit the Hub on the Shore Road, Belfast, any Saturday morning and witness the Blue Blossoms activities and ask for help in relation to forming a new group within their area. Visit the Blue Blossoms North Belfast ASD/ADHD Facebook page to find out more.

On a personal basis, I could not go without complimenting every person involved in assisting this very worthy cause, and hope others will make contact with them, seeking to form similar groups throughout the province.

Nigel

'Making Tax Digital'

Club officials should be aware that from April 2019, new HMRC regulations will come into force as part of the process known as Making Tax Digital.

These regulations will affect all VAT registered businesses including Clubs, regardless of their legal status. Some Clubs with a smaller turnover have until 1st October 2019 to become compliant with the new legislation. VAT registered businesses will therefore be the first businesses that have to comply with MTD for VAT.

If your sales are over the £85k turnover threshold you will have to be using functional compatible software from the start of your first VAT return period beginning on or after 1st April 2019.

If you are below that threshold, then the date which you must comply to MTD we understand will be 1st October 2019, but HMRC are advising to start MTD as early as possible so that when the start date for you is formally announced, you are ready to start.

HMRC is beginning the introduction of the system of Making Tax Digital in April,

with changes required to your quarterly VAT submission. Basically, the requirement is that all your Club's book-keeping records will be required to be maintained in a digital format. The VAT return must be created digitally using the underlying digital VAT records, and then must be provided digitally to HMRC. The process must be digitally transferred at all steps.

Your Club can still maintain its internal book-keeping records on spread sheets or any form of software able to produce the VAT figures, as long as they purchase/obtain suitable Bridging Software enabling them to transfer the data digitally to a format suitable to transfer direct to HMRC.

From the first quarter of the new tax year, VAT records will have to be filed online via an approved HMRC portal. In order to remain compliant with Making Tax Digital demands, Club committees must ensure the book-keeping process within the Club meets HMRC's requirements.



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When deciding to refurbish your club premises, it can sometimes be the case that you fall back into what you are familiar with, resulting in something similar to what went before.

Taking a brave decision to create something new can, however, provide many benefits, not least of which is the creation of a modern and fresh environment to not only cater for existing members, but to create something which will attract new members and guests.

This has been the case in the recently completed refurbishment of the iconic Harland & Wolff Welders Football and Social Club, in East Belfast.

The temptation to refresh what was already there was avoided and has resulted in a fresh and attractive clubroom.

This departure from the traditional design was a brave step to take, with the new approach encompassing the view expressed so often during the economic recession, that those who prepare best, suffer less.

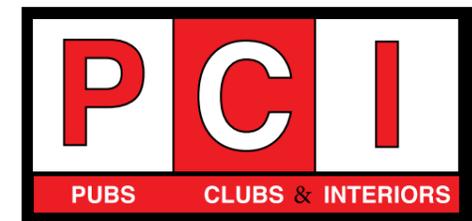
The N.I. Federation of Clubs take this opportunity to congratulate the management committee of Harland & Wolff Welders on the completion of the new refurbishment and wish them continued success.

The commitment to local communities by registered clubs is recognised as being of immense value, and this newly completed project is a shining example of the contribution made to respective communities throughout Northern Ireland.

Working within budget, PCI's young management team has brought a refreshing approach by focusing on modern design, including the use of quality materials, in creating a state-of-the-art facility for members and guests alike.

Project managing from start to finish, PCI would also like to mention the sub-contractors they engaged in completing the refurbishment:

Trans4mation Upholstery Services, Creative Flooring, Base Electrical, AMG Digital. GKG Contracts, ITNI and Reflect Glass Design.



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FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION

Questions & Answers

Q. Could you let us know if we can charge a room hire fee for the Club? Since Members need to be able to access the Club we cannot guarantee the hirer exclusive use of the Club. If we can charge, could we also charge this fee to Members if they wish to hire part or all of the Club? Finally would a room hire charge attract VAT?

A. The Committee are able to lose part or all of the Club in order for a private and exclusive event to be held. This means that the Committee decides that a private event is going to be held inside the Club then the Club's Members will not be able to have access to the Club, or the specific Club space the event is using, for the duration of the event. Club Members do not have an automatic right of entry to the Club at all times and most Club will hold private events from time to time and Members cannot use the areas of the Club that the private events are using whilst they are ongoing. Many Clubs rely on the revenue from hiring out the entire Club or areas of the Club and whilst these events are ongoing Members will not be able to

have access to the relevant areas which are being used.

Therefore, you can charge a room hire fee. Clearly if you decide to offer exclusive use of the whole Club or an area of the Club you will be able to charge a much higher room hire fee than if you cannot guarantee the hirer exclusive use of the Club. But in either scenario it is lawful to charge the person holding the event a room hire fee. Club Members can also be charged a fee to hire the Club for a private event although this would only really make sense if you were granting the Club Member exclusive use of the Club or area of the Club.

A standard room hire fee would attract VAT because you are supplying a service to the person hiring the room. If you were simply hiring a room to a person without supplying any bar or catering facilities then this supply may be exempt.

As a summary, most Clubs do allow for either part or the entire of the Club to be rented out for private events and will often charge a room hire fee to the person organising the event. Members do not have an automatic right to use the Club at any time. For many Clubs revenue from private hire of the Club is very important in keeping the Club going.

Q. The Committee is considering a rule change. Is it the Committee or the Members

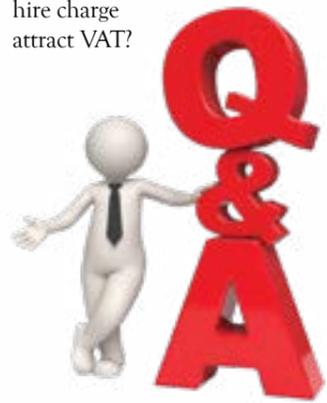
that would decide on a possible Rule change?

A. Any amendment of Rules need to be confirmed by the Club's Members at a Special General Meeting. The Committee is unable to modify or create rules without recourse to the Club's Members although it can create Bye-Laws which do not conflict with any existing Rule or Bye-Law.

Q. The Committee would like to create 'sub-officer' positions which would assist the current Officers with their duties. Is this a Rule change or can the Committee create these positions?

A. In theory the Committee can create sub officers without a Rule change but these would have no right to vote at Committee Meetings and would only be able to attend Committee Meetings if an invite from the Committee is extended to them – they would not have an automatic right to attend Committee Meetings. To provide these new positions with formal voting rights and Committee attendance rights would require a Rule change.

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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Duties of club officers

With many Club AGMs occurring in March and April, we are including a short summary of the responsibility of Committee Members and Officers.

The President

He should identify himself actively with the club and its affairs and be more than a figure-head. He should also preside ex officio over all meetings (other than committee meetings).

The Chairman

The Chairman presides ex officio over all committee meetings and, in the absence of the President, those of the club. He should be thoroughly familiar with the rules of the club and the procedures which govern club meetings. He must, at all times, endeavour to maintain the dignity of his office and, by precept and example, the reputation of the club.

The Chairman should not be afraid to exercise his authority, quietly and tactfully, when occasion arises. He should work in the closest co-operation with the Secretary in assuring that all legal and other club obligations are carried out.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for seeing that all monies, whether received by himself, the Secretary, the steward or any other official or employee are duly banked.

He is to ensure that all debts of the club are paid as directed by the committee and that cheques are signed by himself and one, or more, members of the Finance Committee, then countersigned by the Secretary. It is his duty to produce the Paying-in Book, Bank Statement, Daily Takings Book etc. at every meeting of the committee, or whenever required.

The Secretary

It is the duty of the Secretary to keep the books, documents and papers of the club in proper order and carefully filed. They must summon and attend all meetings and take Minutes of the proceedings.

The duties imposed on a club's Secretary make the person undertaking this office the linchpin in the conduct of club affairs. Unless the Secretary is truly competent, a club will find that it is unable to operate effectively and in accordance

with the increasingly complex legislation affecting clubs. The Secretary acts under the superintendence, control and direction of the committee of management and is responsible for seeing that the decisions of the committee are conveyed to the proper quarter.

Committee

It is the duty of the committee to attend their meetings regularly. The committee conduct the general business of the club; are responsible for its management and control, and for seeing that the rules are duly observed. Acting in a quasi judicial capacity they are empowered - subject to what the rules say - to suspend or expel offending members, having first given them an opportunity

of being heard in self-defence. The appointment, control and dismissal of all club employees rest solely in the hands of the committee.

The committee is responsible for checking books kept by the Treasurer or Secretary and seeing that all takings have been duly paid into the bank. They should examine the Order Book and be satisfied that only goods authorised by them have been purchased and that accounts submitted for payment have been duly checked and verified with the Goods Received Book kept by the Steward. The committee, realising their position of trust and authority, should rigidly observe the rules of the club, thus setting an example to the members.

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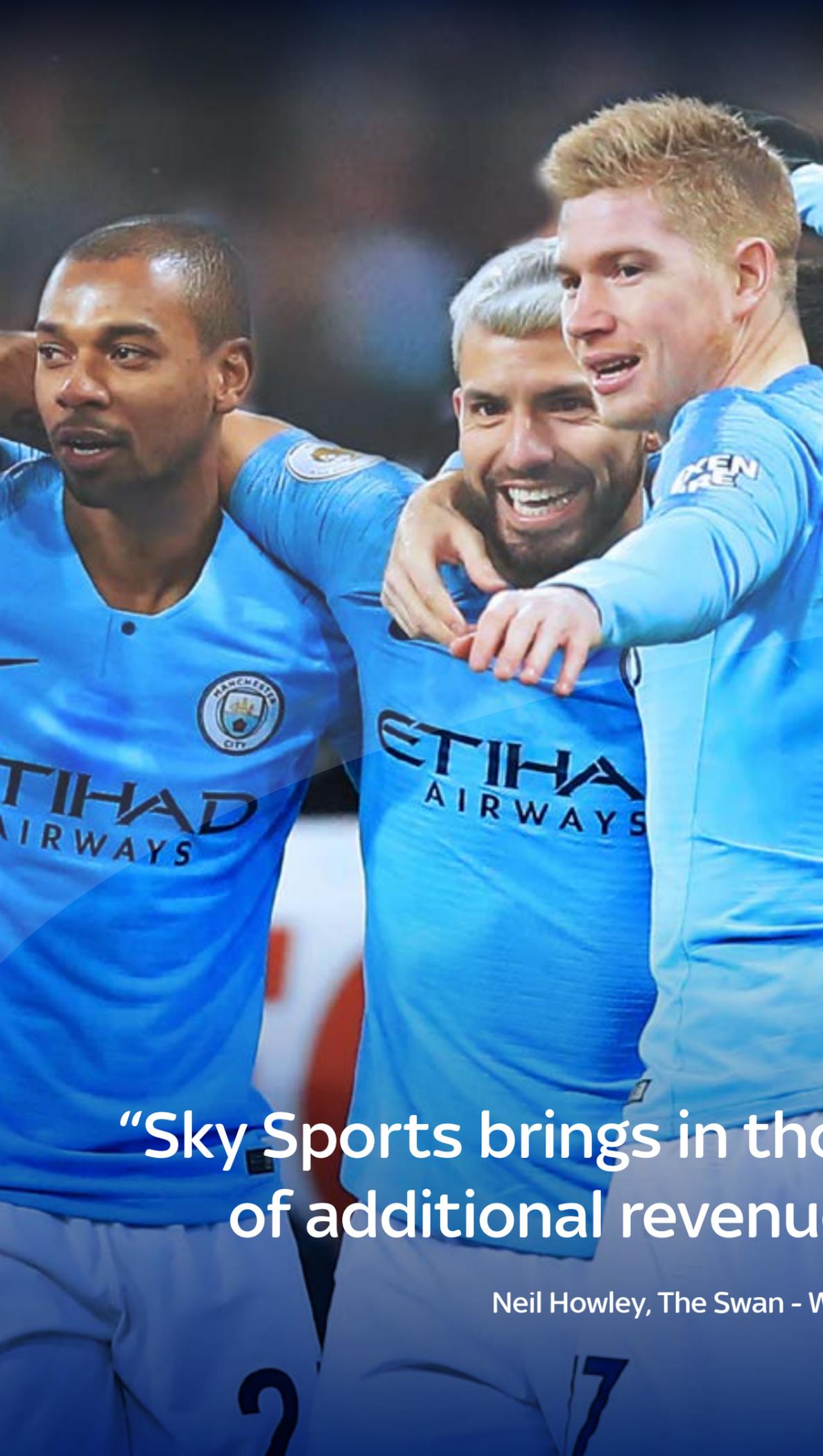
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Sunday 31 March, 12pm
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Sunday 31 March, 2.05pm
Premier League



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Monday 1 April, 8pm
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Advertorial

The Irish energy market has changed...

A new energy milestone was reached when the new all-island wholesale electricity market, the Integrated Single Electricity Market (ISEM) went live on 1st October 2018.

an increase in your energy bills towards the end of 2018 and there will be several reasons for this that we may be able to help you with.

But what does this mean for your club and how does it affect you? You may have seen

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Sky Sports presents another action-packed month

In April, 21 live Premier League games will be shown, with the current top three teams featuring every weekend and games from at least five of the top six teams also being shown. The strong and exciting line-up includes Liverpool v Chelsea, Manchester City v Tottenham and the Manchester derby, meaning Sky Sports are bringing more of the games that matter most to sports fans. The Championship promotion race is also heating up and Sky Sports venues will be able to show all the twists and turns throughout the month.

China, while Sebastian Vettel will be looking for a better result after a disappointing eighth place finish following a collision late in the race. Moving onto Azerbaijan in April, Lewis Hamilton will be looking to match his first-place finish here last year, which was the first victory of his championship-winning season.

April sees the return of The Masters, the first men's Major of the year, exclusively live on Sky's dedicated channel, Sky Sports Golf. Fans will be provided with all the tee-to-green action, from Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th, plus tournament highlights throughout the week. Live coverage on Sky Sports Golf will include live practice sessions as part of the On The Range broadcast, Wednesday's Par 3 Contest, featured groups and holes - including Amen Corner - plus all four tournament rounds live.

The 2019 Formula 1 season motors on as it heads to China and Azerbaijan. Sky Sports F1, the home of live and exclusive Formula 1, is the only place to watch every minute of the track action, with the race, qualifying and practice sessions all exclusively live. Australian Daniel Ricciardo will be defending his win last year in



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

MARCH
 Saturday 30th March..... Fulham v Man City - 12:30
 Sunday 31st March..... Liverpool v Spurs - 16:30
 Sunday 31st March..... F1 Bahrain Grand Prix - 16:10

APRIL
 Monday 1st April..... Arsenal v Newcastle Utd - 20:00
 Tuesday 2nd April..... Wolves v Man Utd - 19:45
 Saturday 6th April..... Norwich v QPR - 12:30
 Monday 8th April..... Chelsea v West Ham - 20:00
 Tuesday 9th April..... Bristol City v West Brom - 19:45
 Wednesday 10th April..... Norwich v Reading - 19:45
 Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th April..... The Masters
 Friday 12th April..... Leicester v Newcastle - 20:00
 Sunday 14th April..... Crystal Palace v Man City - 14:05
 Sunday 14th April..... Liverpool v Chelsea - 16:30
 Sunday 14th April..... F1 China Grand Prix - 07:10
 Saturday 20th April..... Man City v Tottenham - 12:30
 Wednesday 24th April..... Man Utd v Man City - 19:45




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Two classic drinks to make with Bushmills Irish Whiskey

Classic drinks deserve a classic Irish whiskey, and Bushmills Irish Whiskey is always an excellent choice. Made in small batches with passion, great care and supreme craftsmanship, all Bushmills' whiskeys are triple distilled for a pure, smooth and well-rounded taste.

The Bushmills blended malt whiskeys are a timeless and consistent base for any drink and below we have two of the tastiest ways to serve Bushmills Original and Bushmills Black Bush.

Bushmills Original Hot Whiskey
The Bushmills Original Hot Whiskey is the perfect pour this season. As the cornerstone of the Bushmills family, Bushmills Original brings flavours of green apple and vanilla to the fore, complementing the zesty

lemon and honey sweetness in this classic whiskey serve. Here's how to make the perfect hot whiskey every time:

Ingredients

- 50ml Bushmills Original Irish Whiskey
- 60ml hot water
- 4 cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 lemon slice
- (honey or sugar optional)

Method

In a warm glass, add 60ml of hot water along with the cinnamon stick to begin infusing. Then add the Bushmills Original Irish Whiskey.

Pierce the lemon slice with 4 cloves and add to the glass. Add in honey or sugar for additional sweetness. Stir with the cinnamon stick and enjoy!



Bushmills Black Bush Old Fashioned

Feeling a bit braver with your mixology skills?

The Old Fashioned is a well-loved, classic cocktail best suited to a well-loved, premium Irish whiskey - Bushmills Black Bush. The Angostura bitters and hint of orange really draws out the big, robust flavours of dried fruit and nuts in the whiskey with every sip.

Ingredients

- 50ml Black Bush Irish Whiskey
- 1 teaspoon of demerara sugar syrup*
- 2 dashes of Angostura bitters
- Orange peel
- Ice

Method

In a mixing glass, slowly stir the Black Bush, sugar syrup and Angostura bitters over ice until chilled. Strain over fresh ice in a chilled rocks glass and garnish with the orange peel.

*to make the sugar syrup, simmer 1 cup of unrefined demerara sugar with 1 cup of water until the sugar is fully dissolved. Allow to cool and decant into a glass bottle.

For more cocktail inspiration and recipes, follow Bushmills Ireland on social media.

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Are you thinking of playing live music in your venue?



When used effectively, live music has the potential to enhance your venue or event.

family weekends away, we are travelling around the world to watch acts perform live.

It has the power to bring people together, be it in a small club pub or a huge muddy field, everyone is there for the same reason. There are no teams, no different sides, no competition. They are simply there to hear the music they love and have a good time.

This wouldn't be possible though if many of the global superstars we know and love hadn't been able to start performing in grassroots venues. In June 2003, Alex Turner took to the stage in The Grapes pub in Sheffield, and the phenomenal rise of The Arctic Monkeys began. Without small venues hosting bands like this, the UK live music scene would almost definitely decline.

Attract New Interest
Showcasing both well-known artists and local talent could

These days, live music is booming. It has become so much more accessible than it was 30 years ago. Parents are introducing their children to gigs before they can even sing along, festivals have become



help your business grow by attracting the artist's own fans and other fans of the music/genre/style.

If your venue is hosting events containing live music, recorded music or both, you will probably need TheMusicLicence.

At PPL PRS we have a specialised team of Live Music Advisers who will take you through your music licence application step-by-step, making it easy for you to obtain a music licence for the playing or performance of music at your event. They will help you to manage all the licensing elements of your events and live performances.

How is the Cost Calculated?
The cost of TheMusicLicence depends on a number of factors. For live events and performances TheMusicLicence fees are calculated on your specific event, which means our licence is tailored to your individual needs.

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our dedicated Live Music Team on 0208 338 1407 or email livemusic@pplprs.co.uk to get TheMusicLicence for your live event or performance.

Protecting the Future of Music
TheMusicLicence from PPL PRS has been introduced to help make playing music to the public more straightforward.

After our business costs, music licence fees are distributed to those involved in making music via our parent companies PPL and PRS for Music. Our parent companies each have databases storing millions of musical compositions and recordings. Together with information about what music is being played or performed at your event, PPL and PRS for Music can determine fairly and efficiently which of their members to pay and how much to pay them. This means that by purchasing TheMusicLicence, you are supporting the future of music.

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UGAAWA Monthly Merit Award winners

by Tony McGee

FEBRUARY
Rory Gallagher transformed Ryan McHugh from being a dangerous forward into an equally feared wing half-back. Now he has done the same to Ciarán Corrigan as the Fermanagh flyer has been a major figure in the Erne team's unbeaten run to the top of the National Football League Division Two table.

The Maguiresbridge player has been storming forward from his number 7 berth with purpose and result, never more positive than against Donegal last month when he rifled over four telling points from play, to help his team to a rare three points victory over their neighbours in a frisky battle at Letterkenny.

Corrigan was originally known as a forward at county level but is now enjoying his change of scenery. "Yes, I am enjoying the change but I don't mind where I play. I am happy to play wherever the manager puts me," said the Lisnaskea schoolteacher.

He is also enjoying Fermanagh's National League successes but warned, "I am happy, certainly, with the results to date but there is still a long way to go. We have

two tough away games against Armagh and Meath to come and they will be difficult but, as the saying goes, it's one game at a time.

"I am delighted and I thank the Ulster GAA Writers very much for giving me this award. It is a great honour. I am very pleased indeed," enthused the St Mary's clubman who is also a county hurler with Fermanagh, but a clash of National League fixtures prevents him from representing the Erne County in hurling, just now.

Among the awards he has won is a Sigerson Cup medal with St Mary's University in 2017 and a Larry Meagher hurling championship medal with Fermanagh. He now adds the Quinn Building Products UGAAWA February 2019 Monthly Merit Award.

For the latter he receives an engraved Belleek Living Vase, specially designed silver cuff links from Carlingford Design House and training gear from O'Neill's International Sportswear. The presentation was made by Quinn Building Products Sales & Marketing Executive Seamus McMahon.



Quinn Building Contracts Executive, Seamus McMahon (left), and UGAAWA Chairman, John Martin (centre), presents the February Merit Award to Ciarán Corrigan. Picture by Jim Dunne.

JANUARY
Shannon Graham won the Merit Award for March 2017 but she wasn't around to collect the spoils at Quinn's Corner, as she was sunning herself in New Zealand on a well-earned holiday after Slaughtneil had won the All-Ireland senior club championship title. Her mother and father deputised.



Shannon Graham, the UGAAWA January Merit Award winner. Picture by Jim Dunne.

"I certainly would have loved to be there in person but I really did enjoy my time in New Zealand and I know that mum and dad represented me well," said Shannon who got the chance to be there in person to pick up the January Monthly Merit Award.

The Slaughtneil Shamrocks' midfield maestro was rock solid in the Derry and Ulster championship side in their double scores (0-8 to 0-4) victory over Ardrahan (Galway) in the All-Ireland semi-final. She proved to be the perfect link between defence and attack.

If for nothing else but her brilliant high catch in the middle of the defence in the closing stages, to beat off a rally by the Galway team, the Magherafelt based physiotherapist stands out.

"It is a team game, of course, but it's always nice to be singled out for an individual award. It's fantastic news that I have been selected for the January Merit Award and I won't miss the presentation this time," she promised when notified.

It's a one two for Linfield



David Healy presents his award winning defender, Joshua Robinson, with his February Premiership Player of the Month award for February.

Linfield Football Club boss, David Healy, has been named Manager of the Month for February by NIFWA.

In February, Healy guided Linfield to League Cup glory, defeating Ballymena United 1-0 in the showpiece final.

In the league, the Blues continued their march to the title with wins over Coleraine, Ballymena United and Newry City.

Northern Ireland's record goalscorer also won the January award.

Upon collecting the Belleek trophy, Healy said, "I would like to thank the Football Writers' for this award. It's a nice feeling to win two months running, but I know that I'm here because of the efforts of my



NIFWA Chairman, Keith Bailie, presents Linfield boss, David Healy, with his second consecutive Manager of the Month award.

players. They are the ones that deserve the accolades because they have been superb in recent weeks. Lifting the League Cup has given us a taste of winning trophies and we're desperate to win more. The league title is now in our hands.

It's up to us to continue our good form and deliver the success that Linfield fans expect."

Linfield defender, Joshua Robinson, is February's NIFWA Premiership Player of the Month.

League Cup winner Robinson starred in a defence that kept 3 clean sheets in February and he contributed up top too, scoring twice in the league with goals against Coleraine and Ballymena.

Upon collecting the Belleek trophy, Robinson said, "I'm delighted that I was selected for this award, it means a lot to me. It's been a fantastic month for us, winning the League Cup and stretching our lead at the top of the league.

"As a defender, keeping three clean sheets in the month was

very satisfying, but it's a team effort. There's a great spirit in the changing room, but when it comes to the league, no one is taking anything for granted. We will just keep our feet on the ground and take each game as it comes."

With David Healy winning the Manager of the Month award, Linfield have completed the NIFWA double for the second month running.

In January, Healy won the manager's award with Jimmy Callacher taking the Player of the Month title.

This month, Crusaders star David Cushley was second with Darren Murray of Glentoran third.

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2001

Di Canio stops a game



A concerned Di Canio looks on, as Everton goalkeeper, Paul Gerrard, receives treatment for a bad injury. A moment of true class!

West Ham's Italian striker Paolo Di Canio had a chance to shoot into an empty goal against Everton in 2001, as the opposition goalkeeper Paul Gerrard lay injured on the ground outside his penalty area. Di Canio decided to catch the ball with his hands instead of scoring and thereby stopping play so that Gerrard could get treatment.

Everton fans at Goodison Park knew they were witnessing a magical moment of sportsmanship. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. Football Authority FIFA, described Di Canio's gesture as a "special act of good sportsmanship" and subsequently awarded Di Canio the Fifa Fair Play award - football's highest honour for sportsmanship.

This was an example of how someone who has made mistakes can, if given a chance, improve and act in the most honourable way - Di Canio had previously been banned for pushing referee Paul Alcock to the floor in 1998 when he was playing for Sheffield Wednesday.

Di Canio did say, "Only stupid people would say I was wrong, and that we could be in sixth place if it wasn't for me. I was definitely right to do what I did. Sometimes you have to think about situations very quickly. Even if my mother and father told me I was wrong, I would disagree."

"The players and the manager have said nothing to me. They are intelligent and know why I caught the ball. I have never been in that situation before, but I would be lying if I could tell you how I would react if it had happened in a World Cup Final."

Di Canio was, without doubt, one of the most talented footballers to grace British Football - he is also fondly remembered at Celtic, where they still sing ballad songs about his unique skills and the total joy of football which he relentlessly expressed.

Magnus refuses to replay point

Top four seed, Magnus Norman, fancied his chances of getting into the quarter finals and possibly winning a tennis major as he was the last of the top four seeds left in the competition. The Swede was playing against the 16th seed Frenchman, Sebastien Grosjean in the fourth round of the Australian Open.



The Frenchman proved too good and got to match point. Grosjean served an ace to win the match. As the players were shaking hands, the umpire announced the last serve was a 'let' (the ball had supposedly hit the net and therefore the match point needed to be retaken). The net machine recorded it as a 'let' but both players felt the machine was wrong and that the serve was, in fact, a legitimate ace.

Sweden's Magnus Norman - a true sportsman.

Amidst this late-night drama, the Swede refused the umpire's invitation to replay the point and gave the Frenchman the match.

Norman explained, "There was no let. I didn't want to take the point. If I had taken it, the match could have turned around and I would have felt bad. When I leave the court and go home I want to feel good about myself."

The Frenchman appreciated the gesture of honesty and later said of Magnus Norman, "He's a nice guy, never trying to cheat or anything like that."

It happened in 2001...

Football - Liverpool won the UEFA Cup 5-4 after extra-time, in the final against Alavés. This was Liverpool's third UEFA Cup title.

Cricket - The greatest batsman of them all, Sir Donald Bradman, died this year. His Test match average of 99.94 remains the score to beat.

Golf - Tiger Woods won the Masters for the second time and in the process became the first golfer in history to hold all four major championship titles at the same time.

Snooker - Ronnie O'Sullivan won his first World title by defeating John Higgins 18-14 in the final.

Tennis - Venus Williams retained her Wimbledon Ladies Singles title by defeating Belgium's Justine Henin 6-1, 3-6, 6-0.

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