

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

Review Club

VOLUME 34 - Issue 4, 2021



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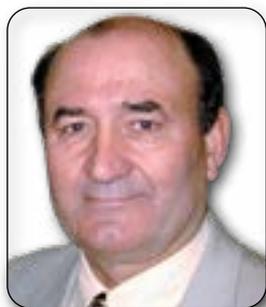
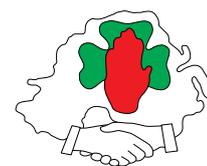
Lemonade

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*fresh raspberries
(use wedge if raspberries are
not available)*

Focus still firmly on Covid-19

We all must do our duty to ensure we don't go into reverse



John Davidson, Chairman,
N.I. Federation of Clubs



Harry Beckinsale, Secretary,
N.I. Federation of Clubs



It is with a little doubt in our minds that we liaise with you this month, the reason being due to our focus on the uncertainty at rising Covid-19 cases and, of course, the ending of furlough at the end of September.

While many people are adhering to the advice to get vaccinated, observe social distancing and wear a mask, there remains quite a number being influenced by conspiracy theories being pushed out via social media.

There is little doubt that we are going to be living with this virus for some time to come, but we really must try to restrict the risk of infection to the best of our ability.

Also in our focus are problems being created by the new licensing legislation, particularly in respect to the application process for late extensions. We were advised to continue using the original application form we were provided with, yet the PSNI are sending a more complicated document, which in itself requires replacement by a new form being prepared by the Department of Communities.

Of course a club now has to additionally place a notice outside the club and also notify their local council. Neither of these requirements existed prior to the licensing amendments released in Phase 1.

We will of course address these issues as soon as possible.

The perception is that the amended legislation has the potential to be more difficult to comply with than that which it was intended to modify. This now requires us to engage with our legal representatives to protect the interests of our members. We are mindful of similar challenges we were met with some years ago when unnecessary difficulties were created by over-zealous policing due to the law being interpreted, rather than being applied.

Nevertheless, we met bygone challenges then and we will be as strong as ever in meeting them again!

We had hoped that coming out of the pandemic would have been met with some

understanding of the difficulties faced by club management committees in respect to both financial and employment issues, but that doesn't appear to be the case.

Members are encouraged to view the Federation Facebook page to keep abreast of the latest news and other important matters, as this will be our first point of contact.

John Davidson
Chairman

Harry Beckinsale
Secretary

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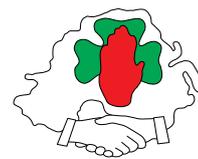
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Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Hosted by the Falls Sports & Social Club, Belfast
on 20th October 2021



The Chairman opened the meeting by acknowledging the recent passing of the Secretary's wife. The Secretary thanked those present for their condolences and for the Federation being present at the funeral service.

At this point, the Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. The said minutes were produced by the Secretary's assistant, Gerry Gallagher, and were comprehensive in providing the detail of the meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place on the credit/debit card

terminals which are becoming widely used in outlets, including the club sector. There was some concern as to the availability of the tariffs available from the various banks, with an assurance given that various offerings have been checked to the best of our ability.

However the tariff available from BOI Payment Acceptance (BOIPA) appears to be the best available. Nevertheless, clubs are of course, as always, at liberty to check, and indeed are advised, to investigate what their current bank has to offer.

Phase one of the Licensing Legislation was discussed in respect to the way in which an application for late extensions have to be applied for. It is now required to place a notice in or near the club up to three weeks prior to the event. It is only required to place the notice once in that period.

It is important to note that the new requirement now includes an application to notify your local Council. This requirement did not exist previously, but has been introduced by the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly.

The new hours, including Sunday opening, was discussed, in that normal opening hours are now available throughout the week.

The Treasurer provided a financial report which was passed as a true record, being proposed as such by Philip Mallon and Brian McCartney.

This concluded the meeting which was followed by lunch, generously provided by the management committee of Falls Sports and Social Club.

Harry Beckinsale
Secretary

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Linneweber 2 update

Clubs may have already heard the long awaited decision in the test case for Linneweber 2 claims was finalised recently with HMRC publishing their take on this matter in their business Brief 12 of 2021 which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revenue-and-customs-brief-12-2021-vat-treatment-of-gaming-machines-from-6-december-2005-to-31-january-2013/revenue-and-customs-brief-12-2021-vat-treatment-of-gaming-machines-from-6-december-2005-to-31-january-2013>

In essence, this covers claims for VAT overpaid at HMRCs insistence on gaming machines operated by clubs in VAT periods covering dates between 6th December 2005 and 31st January 2013. HMRC have confirmed they will consider repayment if any VAT registered business has a valid claim and a valid appeal against a decision to reject a claim. **Please note that it is too late to submit any new claims.**

HMRC note they would like requests for repayment to be made by email where possible. HMRC have noted that they require the following from claimants;

- Name, address, VAT registration number, any changes in details since claims were made
- Related tribunal numbers
- Status of the person

submitting the request for repayment

- Confirmation the club accepts the risks of corresponding by email
- The total claim broken down by VAT period, detailing output and input tax
- Details of irrecoverable input tax as a result of partial exemption calculations, capital goods scheme calculations and confirmation of the partial exemption method used
- Confirmation of what category of gaming machines were operated during the periods in question

If full information isn't available, HMRC require explanation of:

- What evidence is missing
- What steps have been taken to retrieve it
- The reasons why it is unavailable

Having considered the business brief and the details HMRC say they require, we are advised (by Ian Spencer - VAT consultant) that the demands for information are onerous and might be avoided. Further advice on this point will be made known when available.

Some clubs may have submitted claims themselves, others may have used advisors to do this on their behalf. Where advisers were used, our advice is to contact the adviser and seek assistance in dealing with HMRC.

Clause 33 – Increase in number of authorisations for special occasions

Members should note the following additional requirement when applying for a late extension, singularly or in block.

In Phase 1 of the amendments, the number of authorisations which can be granted by the police to any registered club in a year has increased from 85 to 104.

New requirement when making the application!
The amended Legislation now requires the person

making the application to display a notice of the application on or near the club premises for which the authorisation is sought during the three weeks before the first occasion to which the application relates.

A copy of the notice must also be served on the district council.

Similar to licensed premises, clubs are only required to do this once.

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Rathmore Golf Club install new payment system

Local BOI Payment Acceptance (BOIPA) representative, Kieran McIlwaine, has advised that take up of the new deal negotiated with the Federation has been very good since its launch last month.

Below is a brief testimonial from Rathmore Golf Club's Stanley Short, extolling the benefits of the service since its installation in their premises.

Stanley commented, "Rathmore Golf Club's experience of the BOIPA system, from initial contact with Kieran, the Area Business Manager, right through to installation of the machine by their engineer, Stephen, has been friendly, fast and professional.

"The rates negotiated with by the N.I. Federation of Clubs with BOIPA are excellent."

Stanley concluded, "Our bar staff have commented that since the installation, the new facility has provided a quick and efficient method of taking payments, which has been really helpful, especially at busy times."

With the contactless limit on cards having now been increased to £100, many clubs will be wishing to make the card payment option available for their members and guests.

In this day and age, can your club afford to not have a card payment facility?

To find out more about the special deal available to your



Stanley Short, Rathmore Golf Club, pictured with BOIPA engineer Stephen, at the installation of the club's new payment terminal.

club, call local BOI Payment Acceptance representative, **Kieran McIlwaine**, today on **07388 990902** or email

Kieran.McIlwaine@boipa.co.uk
Kieran is ready and waiting to bring the next generation of payment options into your club.

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Q. Life membership and the criteria which may allow such an honour are varied. Are there any guidelines, benchmarks or precedents which you can advise? I appreciate that there will be various opinions on what should be required for this facility to be given to a member, and I am also wary of allowing the “floodgates” to open so that every “Tom, Dick, and Harry” can be put forward for this desirable position.

A. The problem which you have raised is not uncommon. In most clubs, the qualification for life membership was set probably before the First World War, and in a great number of clubs, the rules for this type of membership have not been changed since the late 1800s. It is not that long ago when a man who reached sixty-five was considered to be elderly and to have done quite well. Therefore, it is not uncommon to see a life membership qualification of perhaps twenty years continuous membership and to have attained the age of sixty. Whilst I am not saying this is not an achievement, many clubs no longer regard this as a qualification to warrant life membership.

Many clubs are now changing their rules in order to either raise the bar for life membership or to convert this class of membership to be determined by the committee

for some recognised service to the club. Ultimately, it is up to each individual club to determine whether to continue with life membership, to alter the qualification for life membership or to leave the qualification as it is.

Importantly, if the rules are amended then all existing life members and future candidates for life membership are bound by the new terms. You will appreciate that a person who has enjoyed free subscription for a length of time may not be particularly pleased about any change which involves becoming liable for subscription again. As such, some clubs have altered the qualification for life membership but have only applied this to future candidates.

Q. I have been informed that a single objection to a membership application from an existing member should disqualify the candidate from election to membership. I have always been under the impression that the committee had sole discretion over membership applications.

A. You are correct. Whilst members may object to a person’s application for membership, it is the committee that makes the final decision in accordance with the requirements of the club’s own individual rules. It is usual for two votes against admission to exclude a candidate. Therefore, it is possible to have a situation whereby no members object to a nomination but the candidate is rejected by a committee, or where several members object to a nomination and the committee elect the candidate to membership. Ultimately, the authority to elect or reject candidates for membership is vested solely in the committee. However, a committee would be wise to consider the views of members when making their decision to elect a candidate for

membership, since this is the reason why candidates’ names are posted on the club notice board prior to election taking place.

Q. Are the members able to call an SGM to overrule a committee decision not to allow someone to become a member?

A. The election of members is a matter which is vested solely in the committee. Two votes against admission will exclude a candidate. There is no appeal and even the members at a Special General Meeting would not have the authority to overturn this decision. A rejected candidate may not re-apply until a period of one year has elapsed and a rejected candidate may not be admitted as a member’s guest.

Q. An employee has stated that they need to take time off although it is unclear if it is for sickness or other reasons. We are minded to provide the time off but need to know if it should be paid. This employee has had considerable sickness leave in the past 12 months.

A. I think the first thing to establish is if the time off which has been requested is due to sickness and would therefore be paid as SSP or is to be taken as unpaid leave.

Once the nature of the leave is known, the next steps can then be determined. Ultimately, with extended sickness leave the employer (the committee) can discuss the situation with the employee, and if it is determined that it is unlikely the employee will be able to return to work, then dismissal can be a lawful option. Initially however, we simply need to understand the reason behind the present leave request and, if it is sickness absence, whether it is linked to the previous sickness absences.

Q. The committee are concerned at some of the

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nominations for committee which have been proposed. We consider that they would not work in the club's interests if elected, indeed we understand they may wish to reverse some previous committee decisions. It is also likely that they would cause disruptions in committee meetings if they were elected. Can we prevent these persons from going on the final nominations sheet?

A. The short answer is no. It is entirely plausible that committee members will be elected, sometimes individually, sometimes en masse, who do not agree with previous committee decisions or the general direction of the club. It is, of course, the right of the members to vote for candidates who have been critical of the committee and who, individually, will be pushing for different policies to be enacted. Ultimately, decisions are made by a majority of the committee. Therefore, a committee where there are one or two lone voices objecting to policy is unlikely to be impacted by these points of view. Committee members who disagree with committee policy must do so respectfully, must not disrupt committee business by monopolising committee time and must accept the ultimate decision of the committee. Committee members who behave inappropriately, who do not comply with committee decisions or who reveal confidential information to third parties can be disciplined as per the club's standard disciplinary rules.

The club's chairman must ensure committee meetings are kept on track and are not disrupted by individual committee persons. The published agenda should be followed, and if a situation arises in Any Other Business, then the chairman can determine that it will be formally dealt with at the

next committee meeting. No committee resolution can be rescinded until notice is given of intention to rescind at a proceeding committee meeting and the item formally placed on the agenda of a future committee meeting. If an agenda item is proposed that the chairman believes can be quickly determined by a vote then a vote can be held which will resolve the matter. Committee members should not be allowed to grandstand or waste the time of the committee on matters which have already been determined.

Therefore, in your situation I would repeat the general advice that committee meetings are kept on track by the chairman, that the matters discussed are the matters listed on the agenda, and that once a decision has been made by majority vote, the committee should broadly consider the matter closed unless an intention to rescind the decision is proposed in line with the club's rules.

As for the election results, these results will be purely determined by the club's members, and the results of the election should be respected by all parties.

Q. Our committee have recently had to invite a member to a disciplinary meeting after some poor behaviour. We are a small club and don't often have to officially deal with such problems. Could you let us know how we should conduct a disciplinary procedure?

A. You cannot expel or suspend a member from the club without first inviting them to a committee meeting. A suspension or permanent expulsion can only take place once a disciplinary meeting has been held. You can also only suspend a member for a maximum of twelve months. If the committee are of the opinion that this individual's behaviour has either broken

specific club rules/bye-laws or could be judged to be prejudicial to the cause or the interests of the club, then they can summon this member to appear before the committee. The committee should inform them of the allegations that have been made against them when asking them to attend the disciplinary meeting.

The committee can also instruct this member to withdraw from the facilities of membership until he appears before the disciplinary meeting. It is normal that once the withdrawal takes place, a disciplinary meeting is held within two months and that at least seven days' notice of the meeting must be given to the member, in accordance with the club's rules. If this is how the committee wishes to proceed, you should write to the member and inform them that due to their conduct he has been requested to appear in front of the committee. You should also

include the precise details of the complaint and alleged conduct which has forced the committee to summon the member to them.

You should then hold the disciplinary meeting and, after reviewing any points this member has to make in their defence, the committee should decide if their conduct requires a suspension of membership up to one year in length, permanent expulsion from the club or no action taken against them.

If you decide to withdraw the facilities of membership from the member until the committee has heard the disciplinary meeting, then this means that they will be unable to enter the club until the disciplinary meeting has been heard.

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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Soaring energy prices and what they mean for your club

A number of factors have contributed towards gas and electricity prices rising to their highest levels in decades, with some analysts calling it a 'perfect storm'.

A cold winter in Europe last year put pressure on supplies and, as a result, stored gas levels are much lower than normal. Hot weather in Asia saw more gas used for air-conditioning, while gas exports from Russia to north-west Europe have also been lower. This has helped push up gas prices in the UK, Europe and Asia.

Since January, they've risen 250% and prices have soared 70% from August alone.

But enough of the jargon. What does it mean for your club and what action should you take?

The reality is that any business renewing a contract any time soon will 'take a hit' this winter. The question is however, what is the best option moving forward?

Energy Q&A

Businesses are understandably concerned about rising gas and electricity costs and over recent months have been asking the same questions: Is there a chance my supplier could go bust, and what happens if they do? What is the best type of contract to be on? Should I enter into a short- or long-term



contract? Which supplier is the best/cheapest? When are prices likely to fall again?

These are the types of questions that an established and experienced energy broker can help you answer. There has probably never been a better or more important time to take control of your energy spend than right now! Being with the wrong supplier on the wrong type of contract could be

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If you have noticed a drastic increase in your energy bills lately or you'd like a review and/or some advice, then please get in touch with us. We're here to help.

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

(Information correct as of 25/10/2021)

From 31st October, people will be allowed to move around hospitality premises and indoor venues, including being able to stand to have a drink or eat.

The legal requirement to maintain social distancing in hospitality settings, such as pubs and restaurants will move to guidance.

The restriction on indoor dancing will be lifted and nightclubs will be permitted to reopen.

With guidelines seeming to change on an almost daily basis, it is recommended that you check the NI Direct website for the latest up-to-date news regarding Covid information and how it may or may not affect your club.

Visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19 or for news specific to hospitality www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-and-guidance-what-they-mean-you#toc-6

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT



Sky Sports celebrates local clubs in new long-term consumer campaign

This autumn, Sky kicked off a new campaign demonstrating a long-term commitment to support licensed customers by putting them side-by-side with their local sporting heroes.

'Everyone Loves a Local' is designed to celebrate the close link between local pubs and clubs, local heroes and the sports fans that support them both. In the first of a series of activations that will put licensed premises front and centre of the conversation with sports fans, this September saw Sky send AdVans to Sky customers, land advertising boards at Sky Sports Premier League fixtures, and out-of-home advertising at key locations close to customer venues.

Similar activity is still in the pipeline, and Sky is looking at ways to utilise its advertising and social reach to directly promote its licensed customers from all areas.

Tracy Harrison, Director of Marketing at Sky, said, 'We know how important local pubs and clubs are to their communities and we wanted to hero these venues and the incredible people that run them. Sports fans are immensely proud of their local cities and towns, and the local sporting heroes that represent them. We wanted to connect sports fans and their love of all things local, helping to bring communities back together again.'

With plenty more to come from the campaign, clubs can look out for the opportunity to have

the Premier League trophy in their venue, visits from local sporting superstars, and even the opportunity to Win a TV ad where customers can win an advertising campaign made exclusively for their business, for free – all you need to do is sign up to MySkySports.com to be eligible.

Plus, Sky Sports continues to bring the best range of sport and quality of content throughout the season. In the lead up to the end of 2021, November is packed with the biggest head-to-heads in football, including Man Utd v Man City at 12.30pm on Saturday 6 November, and Liverpool v Arsenal at 5.30pm on Saturday 20 November. Northern Ireland are also back in action on Sky Sports, as they take on Italy in the World Cup Qualifiers on Monday 15 November.

Clubs can also show even more sport to their members, thanks to Sky Sports Bumper Weekends this November. Sky and Amazon are bringing the Autumn Nations Series on Prime Video to clubs this autumn, and members will be able to see 15 exclusively live games across four weekends. There will also be the Mexican and Brazilian Grand Prix on subsequent weekends in November, and the Grand Slam of Darts gets started on Saturday 13 November through to Sunday 21 November – meaning there's something for everyone to come in from the cold for.

Venues should make sure they've registered with www.myskysports.com to receive



© Getty Images

to receive their regular emails to help promote and plan ahead; order free poster packs, and share

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



OCTOBER

- 27th October Preston North End v Liverpool (Carabao Cup)
- 29th - 31st October..... American Grand Prix
- 30th OctoberSpurs v Man Utd
- 30th OctoberAutumn Nations Series Week 1
- 31st October..... Aston Villa v West Ham

NOVEMBER

- 6th November Man Utd v Man City
- 13th - 21st NovemberPDC Darts: Grand Slam of Darts
- 15th NovemberNorthern Ireland v Italy
- 20th NovemberAutumn Nations Series Week 4
- 20th November Liverpool v Arsenal
- 23rd NovemberCoventry City v Birmingham City
- 25th - 28th November.....European Tour Golf: Hong Kong Open
- 28th November Chelsea v Man Utd

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UNMISSABLE LIVE SPORT



Premier League

**MANCHESTER UTD
MANCHESTER CITY**

Saturday 6 November, 12.30pm



Premier League

**ARSENAL
WATFORD**

Sunday 7 November, 2pm



Premier League

**WEST HAM
LIVERPOOL**

Sunday 7 November, 4.30pm



SPFL Premiership

**DUNDEE
CELTIC**

Sunday 7 November, 12pm



Women's Super League

**ARSENAL
WEST HAM**

Sunday 7 November, 6:45pm



Women's Super League

**MANCHESTER CITY
CHELSEA**

Sunday 14 November, 3pm



Premier League

**LIVERPOOL
ARSENAL**

Saturday 20 November, 5.30pm



Premier League

**MANCHESTER CITY
EVERTON**

Sunday 21 November, 2pm



Premier League

**CHELSEA
MANCHESTER UTD**

Sunday 28 November, 4.30pm

sky sports

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The fight against courier and delivery scams

Toby Carlin, Senior Director of Fraud Consulting at FICO, warns that more reporting and better collaboration is needed in the fight against delivery scams.

The 'courier scam' is a global issue that intensified late last year and presented another worrying trend in the new world of digital payments and card scams, warns Carlin.

"The threat has gathered momentum in recent months as fraudsters have found a lot of success and they will continue the 'winning' formula while they still can find a victim that will fall to their schemes," he says.

The Attack

"The attack is simple. A text message (SMS) or email comes out of the blue from an

unknown number or address, notifying the target that they have missed a delivery and that it will need to be re-arranged. When the victim follows the link to re-arrange their fake delivery, they are asked for a host of information along with a fee for redelivery.

"Creating a multi-layered and extremely convincing web page to mimic genuine services is easier than ever before. Mass communication methods by SMS or email are commonplace and often incredibly low cost - a service that is enjoyed by fraudsters and genuine companies alike. It is also quicker and easier than ever to purchase and design a high-quality web domain, and even more troublesome is that in many

instances, the design includes an offering for fraudulent mobile applications. All these schemes are low-cost, but highly effective."

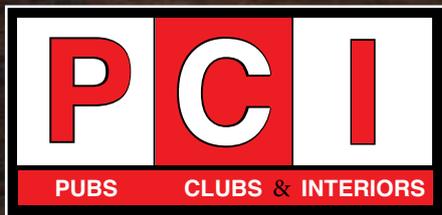
Fraudsters can publish these scam web pages and send mass communications incredibly quickly with little to no checks completed prior to their onboarding.

"The fraudulent services run as legitimate businesses until the point a customer reports the illegitimate service to law enforcement and industry groups in an attempt to stop the unlawful service. The enforcement activity is then to block access to those web domains, which requires a collaboration between ISPs," says Carlin.

"To get ahead of these attacks, we must encourage more reporting and better collaboration in the fight against such frauds along with continuing to strengthen controls around data compromise detection which forms the basis of targeting these threats. As with all types of fraud, combining intelligence and fraud prevention efforts will always win out against the fraudster."

Carlin, who's company is investing heavily in the global fight against fraud scams, points to <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> as a particularly valuable reporting mechanism, as well as individual delivery companies.

www.fico.com



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'Natasha's Law' comes into force

It's been almost five years since Natasha Ednan-Laperouse collapsed and died after eating a Pret a Manger baguette. The teenager went into cardiac arrest on a BA flight in July 2016 after suffering a major allergic reaction to sesame, which wasn't declared on the packaging.

The inquest into her death in 2018 exposed a major loophole in UK food labelling law, which meant retailers making food fresh on their own premises didn't have to provide allergen information on the packaging.

"In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths could occur unless action is taken," warned the coroner, Dr Sean Cummings, at the time. In 2019, after a tireless campaign by Natasha's parents Tanya and

Nadim Ednan-Laperouse, then environment secretary Michael Gove announced plans to close that loophole with Natasha's Law. The legislation proposed making full ingredient labelling mandatory on all pre-packed for direct sale (PPDS) food from October 2021.

The new rules, which will affect a wide range of businesses from cafés to major supermarket chains, were backed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). Heather Hancock, who was chair of the regulator at the time, described Natasha's Law as an "important step forward in our ambition for the UK to become the best place in the world for people living with food hypersensitivities".

It applies to products designated as 'pre-packed for



Natasha Ednan-Laperouse's family welcome new law

direct sale' (PPDS). That is food packaged at the same place it is offered for sale to consumers, including pre-wrapped products kept behind a counter.

It will potentially affect cafés and sandwich shops, as well as caterers, supermarkets and convenience stores with a food-to-go offer. We believe it will only have a limited effect on clubs but it is important to be aware of the new regulations if the club prepares and then sells packaged food on the premises. No changes apply to food prepared on demand for customers, such as ordering from a menu.

Under the revised legislation, PPDS food will need to have a label showing the name and quantity of the food and the full ingredient list. Any of the 14 declarable allergens - celery, cereals containing gluten, crustaceans, eggs, fish, milk, lupin, molluscs, mustard, sesame, peanuts, soybeans, sulphur dioxide and sulphites, and nuts - will need to be clearly emphasised (ie in bold and underlined).

What is PPDS food?

Pre-packed for direct sale or PPDS is food which is packaged at the same place it is offered or sold to consumers and is in this packaging before it is ordered or selected. It can include food that consumers select themselves (e.g. from a display unit), as well as products kept behind a counter and some food sold at mobile or temporary outlets.

Food that isn't PPDS

- Any food that is not in packaging or is packaged after being ordered by the consumer. These are types of non pre-packed food and do not require a label with name, ingredients and allergens emphasised. Allergen information must still be provided but this can be done through other means, including orally.
- Food packed by one business and supplied to another business. This is pre-packed food and already must have full labelling, including the name of the food and a full ingredients list, with allergenic ingredients emphasised within it.



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The La Sagra brewery was founded by Carlos Garcia, a first-generation brewer born in Madrid. He started La Sagra Brewery in 2011 in Toledo, on the outskirts of Madrid, a unique area of Spain, historically, a melting pot of 3 different cultures. Having seen first hand the fusion that Madrid and the surrounding area embodies Carlos applies that 'Fusion' philosophy to the beers he brews to create beers loved by all.

La Sagra doesn't have hundreds of years of brewing history, nor a long family tradition in beer. What they have is a young, innovative brewery, with a passionate team of beer lovers brewing exceptional quality beers, leading an unstoppable beer movement in Spain and beyond!

Madrí is the traditional way of pronouncing Madrid. Madrid is the epicenter of Spain that all roads lead to. Its (cultural) heartbeat flows to all corners of the country and beyond. Madrid is famous for the passion of its people and this passion is embodied by the "Chulapos", a group of people in Spanish society in the 19th century who were famous for their elaborate style of dress and cheeky attitude. Today, the term is used to refer to anybody from Madrid and this style and attitude lives on in modern day Madrid.

Madrí Excepcional embodies the philosophy of Carlos and the modern day Chulapos bringing the Soul of Madrid, or as we like to say "El Alma do Madrid" to our bars and restaurants.

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Cancer Focus NI new monthly prize draw

Support us and win!

Cancer Focus NI's new monthly Prize Draw is a great way to donate to your local cancer charity and be in with a chance of scooping a whopping £500 jackpot in their monthly draw!

All proceeds from the new draw will continue to support their vital services such as Counselling, specialised Bra Fitting, Nurse Line and Art Therapy. Information about these services can be found at www.cancerfocusni.org.

Here's how it works

Just set up a monthly Direct Debit for at least £5 and you will be included in the monthly draw on the last Friday of every month. There will be one lucky winner each month and all

proceeds will stay right here in Northern Ireland. There is no rollover, so there will always be a monthly winner: and you could be the one!

The winning name will appear on their website but if you win, you don't need to claim your prize - they'll get in touch and transfer the £500 straight into your bank account.

How do I sign up?

The simple way to be involved is to set up a Direct Debit. It's safe and easy and only takes a few minutes. You can either call Cancer Focus NI on 028 9068 0745 or enter online at www.cancerfocusni.org/prize

You will receive confirmation of your Direct Debit within 14 days.

Cancer Focus NI challenge you

Tollymore Forest Marathon Walk!

The Tollymore Forest Marathon Walk will take place on Saturday 13th November 2021 and is the perfect end of year walking challenge! The fully marked gravel track course follows a series of trails deliberately showcasing the beauty of Tollymore.

Choose from two distances; 26 Mile Marathon Walk or 13 Mile Half Marathon Walk. Registration for both events is £35 and the charity recommend a minimum sponsorship of £80. Register online at: www.cancerfocusni.org/tollymore-forest-marathon-walk

Challenge yourself to make it to the top of Cave Hill - in the dark!

Starting at 7.30pm on Friday 5th November, the Cave Hill

Moonlit Walk will take you to the top of Cave Hill around 10pm, where you will be able to take in the spectacular moonlit views of Belfast and beyond, before returning to Belfast Castle's car park for a well-earned hot cuppa.

The time taken to complete the climb depends on the pace of the group but on average it takes approximately 2.5 hours.

Get your torch ready for this must-do challenge! Places are limited to 50 so sign up now to avoid disappointment. Minimum age is 8. Anyone under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Register online at: www.cancerfocusni.org/cave-hill-moonlit-walk3



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NORTHERN IRELAND

Anton Glackin, poet, musician, singer and songwriter, shares his life and music with Nigel.



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

It is my pleasure to share the life and music of celebrated singer songwriter Anton Glackin.

Anton was born in County Tyrone, into a family steeped in storytelling, poetry, and songwriting. His grandfather was Johnny Glackin, a storyteller of note and no stranger to media attention, and father Gerry Glackin, poet, story-teller and singer songwriter, and the man Anton declares as his inspiration in both his life and music.

Anton was gifted his first guitar by his father at the age of eight, and it was at this age that he also began writing poetry. He said during our interview, "I recall writing my first poem, of a squirrel climbing up a tree, after that there was no stopping me. I would put pen to paper, writing poetry of my life's observations of all manner of things."

Anton mastered his musical ability on guitar, and later

bass guitar. It was a natural progression from his poetry and music ability that he turned his talents to song-writing. Anton moved to Belfast, and this has been his base for the past 20 years. He has enjoyed many trips to the USA, (Minnesota, Chicago, and Nashville) during this time, sharing the stage with artists such as the late Nanci Griffith, and Bagatelle.

My first ever meeting with Anton was a few years back, interviewing him regarding his new release at the time, 'Don't Rock Where the Alligator Roll', a masterpiece and chart climber to number one, as are many of his songs. He is an exciting young writer, excelling in various styles, not wishing to be typecast with one particular type of music.

He is as much at ease beside a log fire telling the stories of his songs and performing with his guitar, as he is on stage with many stars of the music industry. I later interviewed Anton on another released hit, 'The Day Hank Williams Died', a remarkable song embraced globally by music lovers. Anton was keen that I should mention his mentor of 20 years and also his Irish producer, Plunkett McComb, for his friendship and professional assistance.

In my most recent conversation with Anton, he asked my opinion on a song he was working on, as to whether I thought it was a viable concept to release as a single. The song 'My Queen of the May', was



Anton Glackin.

derived from the story of the Mayfly found on the shores of Lough Neagh; its lifespan no more than 24 hours. Related to this in the words of his song 'If I Had Only One Day, I Would Spend It With You'.

I told Anton it was one of the most beautiful ballads I had heard in recent years, and should definitely be released at the earliest possible opportunity. It was duly released a short time ago, and I was given the opportunity to

debut the song on my show at Belfast 89.FM, and needless to say, another chart topper.

I will be following Anton's career closely, not wanting to miss any opportunity to interview him to speak about future hit recordings. I'm sure he will keep me busy for years to come.

Thank you Anton, and wishing you every success.

Nigel.

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New H&W Welders ground officially opens to the public

H&W Welders made their long-awaited debut at their new Blanchflower Stadium on Saturday 16th October and defender, Gary Spence, is of the opinion that the move will be the catalyst to take the club to the next level.

The Welders departed their long-standing home of Tillysburn Park and moved into the new Blanchflower Stadium with its state-of-the-art facilities, following a lengthy construction process.

“It’s a really exciting time and our opening match against Knockbreda on 16th October was a huge occasion for the club,” said Spence.

“Those on the committee have worked so hard to put all of this in place - we trained at the facilities for two weeks before our first game, and it really was a world apart from what went before.

“The club now has to push on to the next level and be where they have not been before as the club can now attract players that, in the past, we have not been able to.

“That is no disrespect to me or anyone else at the club but

the club can make a step up now” concluded Spence.

Big congratulations of course are extended to the N.I. Federation of Clubs Chairman, John Davidson, who is also the Treasurer of H&W Welders FSC, and club President, Fred Magee.

John, along with other committee members has worked tirelessly over the past number of years to ensure the facility was completed on time and to specification, from initial planning, right through to completion.

This work was marked in fine style, with the main stand being named in John’s honour. The new ‘John Davidson Stand’ will host matches for many years to come, with fans having the very best facilities at their disposal.

Also honoured at the official opening was H&W Welders FSC President, Fred Magee, who had the hospitality suite named after him. This suite is second to none and will be a welcome retreat for many, both before and after matches, for many years.

The new stadium will not only host home games for the Welders but will also provide a much needed community facility, clearly demonstrated by the numbers who have already pre-booked training slots in advance.

Congratulations to all involved and best wishes for a very exciting future.



John Davidson is congratulated at the opening of the John Davidson Stand by Club Chairman, Thomas Flynn and President, Fred Magee.



John Davidson officially opens the new stand, named in his honour.



Club President, Fred Magee, officially opens the new Hospitality Suite, named in his honour.



NI Football Writers' Awards

Linfield midfielder Chris Shields has been named Danske Bank Premiership Player of the Month for September.

The former Dundalk star, who joined Linfield in July, was selected by the N.I. Football Writers' Association following a string of superb displays in the month. In September, the Blues claimed wins over Portadown and Glentoran.

A delighted Shields said, "I'd like to thank the Football Writers' for this award.

"I'm really enjoying life in the Irish League and my time at Linfield. The facilities are top class, and the people are even better. I've known David Healy for a long time, so I'm really enjoying working under him.

"The quality in this league gets overlooked. It's a tough division and I'm enjoying playing my part in that.

There's pressure at Linfield to win trophies, but that's something I'm used to from my time at Dundalk."



Ruth Gorman, UTV sports correspondent and new NI Football Writers' Association chairwoman, presents Chris Shields with his award.



A beaming Lauren Wade proudly receives her Player of the Month award for September.

Lauren Wade has added further success to an already glittering end to the season by being named the Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Danske Bank UK Women's Player of the Month for September.

The skilful winger was instrumental in Glentoran Women's Danske Bank Women's Premiership triumph, with an impressive performance in the thrilling 3-2 victory over Cliftonville Ladies on the night that they clinched the title.

Lauren also netted twice in a massive 9-0 victory over 'Big Two' rivals Linfield Ladies.

After winning the league in September, Lauren and her Glentoran Women team mates went on to secure a treble earlier this month. The Glens won the County Antrim Women's Cup and then, to top off a remarkable season, the Irish FA Women's Challenge Cup, beating Crusaders Strikers 2-0 in the final with Lauren scoring the second goal in the final moments.

Cliftonville Football Club manager Paddy McLaughlin has cause for a double celebration recently.

McLaughlin, who has been named Aktivora Manager of the Month for September by the Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association, turned 42 in October.

The Reds were unbeaten in September with wins over Glentoran, Dungannon Swifts, Warrenpoint Town, Harland & Wolff Welders and Knockbreda.

McLaughlin said, "I'd like to thank the N.I. Football Writers' Association for this award. It's a reflection on the whole team and backroom staff, not just me. We've had a brilliant start to the season despite some tricky away fixtures. There's no magic wand behind our good start, it's just a product of hard work and desire."

It's the second time McLaughlin has won the prestigious award. He also collected the Manager of the Month accolade in February of this year.



Cliftonville boss, Paddy McLaughlin, picks up his second N.I. Football Writers' Manager of the Month award.

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