

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

# Club Review

VOLUME 37 - Issue 4, 2024

## MY GOODNESS! MY GUINNESS 0.0

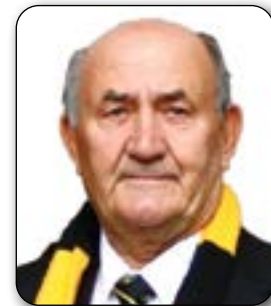
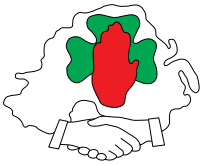


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## Securing the future: Innovations and commitment needed



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



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

We were alarmed to learn of the number of public houses closing each week in mainland GB, highlighting the forward thinking in appointing Michael Stewart to oversee ways to drive forward a plan to generate the hospitality offering in Belfast. Of course registered clubs are equally affected by rising costs, and as an important part of the hospitality sector, we are equally concerned on behalf of our members.

Part of the licensing amendments included the ability for registered clubs to advertise, albeit being directed to members and their guests.

Being able to advertise events in a registered club should be availed of at every opportunity, which highlights

the importance of maintaining the clubrooms' environment to encourage increased use of the club. It is important that clubs provide a modern facility similar to that found in the hospitality sector as we feel that is what people now expect. In today's hospitality sector both young and older members and guests are rather more demanding and the view that 'those who provide best suffer less' is more important than ever when it comes to socialising.

When and if you are considering a refurbishment of your clubrooms, whether undertaking upgrading the club facilities yourself or outsourcing, please ensure that compliance with current regulations that meet council and building control regulations are met.

If engaging a professional, such as PCI (Pubs Clubs Interiors), it is of course expected that they will be aware of all requirements.

Although registered clubs have additional late extensions available to them, there are a number of clubs which would like to have the same level available as the licensed trade.

Naturally, we will initially look at the channels available to us to seek such an increase and indeed the viability of the proposal.

It is Federation Membership renewal time, with a number of clubs continuing to renew

via cheque. Renewal letters have been sent out as normal, together with a form, to allow payment by standing order. It is hoped that those members renewing by cheque will consider the standing order means of renewing, which will assist us in administration and, of course, save in postage, which is already quite substantial.

We wish everyone well as we move through the first half and into the second half of 2024.

John Davidson  
Chairman

Harry Beckinsale  
Secretary

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Congratulations

It is with great pride and admiration that we extend heartfelt congratulations to our esteemed Chairman, John Davidson, also the Treasurer of the Harland & Wolff Welders F.S.C., upon being awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for his exceptional services to the licensed trade.



John's tireless dedication and unwavering commitment have not only strengthened the fabric of the club sector but have also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie within Northern Ireland. His leadership and vision have been instrumental in driving positive change, ensuring that clubs and social venues remain vibrant hubs of social interaction and support.

This prestigious recognition is a testament to John's outstanding contributions and the high regard in which he is held by his peers and the broader community, and this honour is richly deserved.

Once again, congratulations, John. Your achievements inspire us all, and we are profoundly grateful for your service and dedication.

Congratulations are also extended to East Belfast's Roy McNaught, who has been honoured with the Unsung Hero Award at the recent Sunday Life Spirit Awards. This award is given to individuals whose significant contributions to a person or community have gone previously unrecognised.

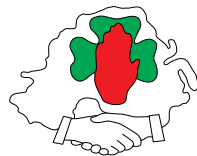


Roy (2nd from right) is pictured with (L-R) local entertainer Tony Jones, Sunday Life journalist, David O'Dorman, and Federation Secretary, Harry Beckinsale.

Roy has transformed his passion for music into a charitable endeavour by founding Kids in Need Charity Promotions. This organisation features local cabaret artists who freely perform to raise funds for charities such as Cancer Fund for Children, Autism NI, Tearfund, and the Air Ambulance NI.

Congratulations, Roy, from all your friends in the Federation and clubland community. Your award is well deserved, and we wish you continued success in your future fundraising endeavours.

Minutes of the Federation AGM



Hosted by the RAOB HQ, Belfast, on Saturday 25th May 2024

Although the FA Cup and Scottish Cup finals coincided with our Annual General Meeting, we were pleased with both the attendance and the content of the meeting.

The Secretary, Harry Beckinsale, welcomed those present, continuing to invite the Chairman, John Davidson, to officially open the meeting. In doing so, he requested that those present be upstanding in remembrance of past members. This moment of reflection served as a poignant reminder of the contributions made by those no longer with us, reinforcing the sense of community and continuity within the Federation.

Much of the agenda focused on the amended Licensing Legislation and the benefits it now provides for the day-to-day management of a registered club. Expanding on that was the advice to have drawings of outside areas prepared, should you wish to utilise an area outside your existing clubrooms as these will be required for the PSNI and the local council.

Human resources, i.e., employment legislation advice, was provided by Ronnie McCullough of RKM Business Solutions. Ronnie looked at the importance of managing staff in today's employment minefield. The Secretary elaborated by providing information of his own personal experience in this area and how reassuring it was to be advised throughout the process to its completion. Adopting the attitude of 'it may never happen to me' and failing to seek advice from your insurance company, independent advisor, or the Labour Relations Agency may well prove to be a foolish move. The comprehensive guidance offered underscored the importance of proactive and informed management practices in maintaining a harmonious and legally compliant workplace.

The Federation accountant, Lawrence Shearer, provided an overview of the accounts since the previous AGM was held in 2019 (the day COVID restrictions were imposed) with questions posed and addressed. It was explained that the Federation's membership fee remains at

£50, being unchanged since the Federation was first established, which it was acknowledged has been only possible due to the support of our suppliers, hence the importance of utilising the services they provide where and when possible.

Thankfully, the amendments to legislation have improved matters for management committees. These include the relaxation of club accounts, which are now aligned with a club's level of income in deciding the level of accountancy required when preparing the annual accounts. This change has eased administrative burdens, allowing clubs to focus more on their core activities and member services.

A question on limited company status was raised, which the Federation chairman, John Davidson, and the Federation accountant, Lawrence Shearer, addressed comprehensively. They detailed the legal and financial implications, helping clubs understand whether such a status would be beneficial for their operations. Also explained were the complexities

of adapting to become a CASC registered club, which restricts much of how a club is managed and, of course, relinquishes ownership of the club to a large extent. It was explained that advice on CASCs can be found on the Federation website at [www.nifederationofclubs.com](http://www.nifederationofclubs.com). The detailed discussions provided valuable clarity and guidance on these significant strategic decisions.

The meeting drew to a close with thanks extended to visiting delegates for taking the time to attend. The AGM ended with those in attendance enjoying the refreshments provided.

The meeting was deemed highly productive and informative, with valuable insights shared and appreciated by all attendees, setting a positive tone for the year ahead. The sense of camaraderie and shared purpose was palpable, reinforcing the Federation's commitment to supporting its members and promoting best practices across all clubs.

Harry Beckinsale  
Secretary

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# Condolences on the passing of George Smith, President of the CIU

It is with profound sadness that the Executive Committee of the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs extends its deepest condolences to the Club Institute Union (CIU) on the passing of their esteemed President, George Smith.

George Smith was more than a leader; he was a visionary and a stalwart of the club community on the mainland and his tireless dedication to the CIU and its members has undoubtedly left an indelible mark.

George was elected President of the CIU in December 2019 and won his third Presidential

election in December 2023. Under his leadership, the CIU not only survived challenging times but thrived, adapting to changing societal needs while preserving their core missions.

As we grieve this significant loss, we also celebrate the life of a remarkable individual whose contributions have made a lasting impact.

To our friends and colleagues at the CIU, our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May we all continue to honour George's legacy by upholding the values he so passionately promoted.





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# Let's Club Together

Could your Club could help ensure no child in Northern Ireland has to face cancer alone?

We support children and young people diagnosed with cancer, their siblings and families and also parents with cancer.

We provide emotional, social and therapeutic support at home, in hospital, in the community, at our short break centre Daisy Lodge in Newcastle, Co. Down and our residential centre, Narnia Log Cabin.

## How your Club can get involved

From collection cans to quizzes or raffles, there a lots of ways your Club can get together and help support families impacted by cancer.

Contact our Community Fundraiser, **Beth Black** today for more info:  
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**Q.** Each year our club holds one or two events, the admissions to which have, in recent years, been by ‘ticket only.’ We have some members who question this and say that they must be allowed to enter the club, even if they do not wish to buy a ticket. We would appreciate your clarification of this matter.

**A.** I confirm that it is in order for an event to be promoted at the club, the admission to which is by ticket only.

A member of a club does not have an automatic legal right of entry to their club. Consequently, if a ticket only event is organised and promoted then members who do not wish to purchase a ticket may not enter a club at such an occasion.

Ticket events are few and far between and, in most clubs, only take place on New Year’s Eve. By selling tickets for such an event the committee will at least be able to manage the number of staff required and levels of entertainment and refreshments required etc., which otherwise they may not be able to do on what can be either a very busy or a very quiet night.

**Q.** We have received a petition of 30 Members requesting a SGM to vote on removing the Committee from Office. Since we have received the petition several Members who are on

the petition have said they do not support it and did not know what they were signing. Should the SGM still go ahead if these Members formally withdraw their support?

**A.** Most clubs have a mechanism where 30 or more members can sign a petition which will mean a SGM will be held and a vote taken on whether to remove the committee.

If it became apparent that some of the names on the list had requested that their names be removed and this caused the number of names on the list to fall below 30 then a new petition would have to be circulated and submitted to the committee. An SGM can only be held if a valid petition of at least 30 names has been submitted and if those named on the petition objectively support the petition.

As a matter of course, we would suggest that any member leading such an operation obtains at least 30 names and ensures that all the persons signing the petition are aware of the nature of the petition and that by signing the petition they are calling for an SGM to be held in order to vote on removing the committee. If an SGM is successfully called then 75% of those members who attend the SGM are required to vote in favour of the motion removing the committee from office in order for it to succeed.

**Q.** One of our members has put a motion in for inclusion at the AGM that the committee detail the individual salaries of all club employees. Do we have to disclose this information to the Members at an AGM?

**A.** The request for salary details to be revealed at the Annual General Meeting

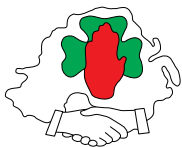
cannot be included as it is not a proper motion. A motion is something which can be voted on by the members by giving a yes or no answer. A request for information is not a motion and so cannot be included as an item in the AGM.

The rules will normally state that internal management, such as employment, of the club’s affairs is exclusively a matter for the club’s committee. The appointment and dismissal of the Steward and all the club employees shall be vested solely in the Committee.

If this member has questions about the wages then it would be appropriate to raise this as a question during the financial report at the AGM. It is important to ascertain why this information is required by the member. As with all sensitive and confidential financial information there must be a legitimate reason to disclose this information. If this member would like to have a say in the internal running of the club and have access to this information then they are free to be nominated to the committee and agree to abide by the usual committee confidentiality.

Wage information is sensitive information and is kept confidential for important reasons. Unless there is a legitimate need to break down the amount paid to each employee, then the committee should not feel obligated to provide this information.

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



# Recruiting a steward

Before you place an advertisement to recruit a new steward, you need to look at one or two issues about why you have a vacancy at all and in particular why your last steward left. People sometimes leave their jobs for good reasons, but a little detective work might reveal that your conditions of employment do not encourage people to give you long-term commitment.

You might even find that the way you recruited last time fell short of the mark and you lost the last steward because they were the wrong choice in the first place. If this is the case, regard the current vacancy as a chance to get the recruitment procedure right.

Examine in detail exactly what the job of steward entails. This might be a good time to restructure the job if necessary. Write a list of all the duties required. They will fall quite naturally into four or five main areas such as customer service, cleaning and maintenance, stock control or staff management. Finer detail can then be recorded under these headings.

When you have completed this job description, you can write down what knowledge and skills are required for someone to do the job well. Examples of this might be knowledge of bar stock control procedures or the skill of handling customers or members. What you will be creating is a list of the abilities you should be looking for in the ideal candidate. You might also add to this list some of the other things that you should be looking for which are more specific, such as availability to work the hours required.

Devising a concise advertisement based on your specifications will make it clear what the job entails and can indicate the attributes which are considered essential for success in the post. Be careful not to fall foul of discrimination law. You cannot state that you do or do not want a particular sex or racial group for the job. Put a closing date on applications so that you can compare all your candidates and arrange to see the best ones.

Advertising by word of mouth and using personal recommendations can be very effective and it is certainly cheap. However, this approach does have its problems. It can be tempting to compromise for convenience sake when a reasonable candidate is introduced to you by a personal contact. It can also cause offence if you decide to reject someone recommended to you. Even worse, taking on someone’s friend or relative, only to have to dismiss them later because they turned out to be unsuitable, can be damaging to staff or personal relationships.

When you have received application forms and CVs, compare what each of the candidates has to offer to the specification you had put together at the outset of this recruitment campaign. Remember to look for obvious problems such as gaps in employment history or changes of job which seem hard to explain (for example, giving up a lucrative landlordship or club steward position somewhere else).

Never leave the interview itself just to one person from a club. Convene an interviewing panel from the committee. Alternatively, have one

person interview the applicants and then pass them on to a second stage interviewer. Two opinions will help to obviate personal bias and maximise the possibility of an objective decision.

The application or CV can only provide prompts for in-depth investigation; it cannot give you a comprehensive picture on its own. Do not miss the opportunity to find out about what the candidate is capable of by enquiring thoroughly about the way they are doing their present job or their experience in any other employment. Every interviewee should be asked to demonstrate that they have the skills and abilities that you require and be questioned on how their past experience relates to your specific requirements. How, for example, have they dealt with running a profitable bar, handling difficult staff issues, building relationships with customers or members, and dealing with contractors? You should be able to find out in the interview if the applicant matches your requirements.

Check the provenance of any referees you are given. Former employers are best, and you can check that they do in fact exist as bona fide sources of information. Personal referees have limited value as they would hardly have been offered if they were not expected to give glowing praise.

Ask the referee questions which help them tell you



what you need to know about reliability, efficiency, customer relations and trustworthiness. Referees have a duty of care to give you truthful facts about your candidate. If they find it hard to give you constructive feedback, they might decline to write anything or keep to the barest of facts, such as dates of employment. Make sure you telephone all referees in order to validate their references. When you offer employment, remember to make it conditional on any checks you have to make. You may need to make such a conditional offer in order to approach a current employer. Never approach referees without the candidate’s express permission.

The process comes full circle at the decision stage. Compare what your most promising candidate has to offer against what you say that you require in your specification. If you do not find that person this time around, you would be better to start again rather than make an appointment that is only second best.

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# The importance of good onboarding and induction processes

As a business owner, hiring and retaining the right employees is critical for success. A well-designed onboarding and induction process is key to ensuring employee retention and maximising your investment in new hires. Here's why it matters:

**Reduced Turnover and Significant Cost Savings**  
Employee turnover comes at a huge expense - not just in recruitment costs but lost productivity, training expenses and potential morale impacts. Research shows effective onboarding can improve retention by 25%. Ensuring new starters feel welcomed, supported and integrated into your company culture from day one increases the likelihood they'll stay long term, avoiding the need for costly replacements.

The true cost of replacing an employee on an average £27,600 salary is staggering. Recruitment fees can reach £5,000 if using an agency or £200-£400 for online advertising. Then there's the employee's £27,600 salary (UK Government statistics for average

salary), £1,656 in potential bonuses (60% of UK businesses now offer a bonus or incentive program to help retention), £4,037 in employer National Insurance contributions, at least £276 in pension payments, £1,068 in training costs, £4,800 for office equipment/space and around £8,000 in other overhead costs like HR, holiday/sickness cover and software licenses.

This all amounts to approximately £50,000 for that one new hire's first year.

**Faster Productivity and Contribution**  
Comprehensive onboarding equips new employees with the knowledge, skills and resources to become productive team members more rapidly. Providing clear instructions, training and key introductions enables quicker contribution to your business, translating directly into increased efficiency and profitability.

**A Strong Company Culture**  
Onboarding immerses new hires in your company's values, mission and expected behaviours. When employees understand and embrace your

culture from the outset, they're more likely to be engaged, motivated and aligned with goals. This cultural fit leads to better teamwork, job satisfaction and overall performance.

**Reduced Anxiety and Stress**  
Starting a new job is stressful, but a good onboarding process alleviates this by giving new starters the information and support to feel confident in their new role. This could include a detailed schedule, a designated mentor/buddy and an open-door policy for questions. Feeling less overwhelmed allows a smoother adjustment period.

**Improved Communication and Problem-Solving**  
Effective onboarding fosters open communication from day one. When new hires feel comfortable asking questions and seeking help, it leads to better problem-solving, innovation and a more cohesive working environment. This openness has a positive ripple effect organisation-wide.

**Demonstrated Organisational Commitment**  
A robust onboarding process shows your company values new employees and is invested in their success from the start. This initial development commitment can build higher morale, loyalty and a stronger, more dedicated workforce - valued employees are motivated to go above and beyond in their roles, contributing to your overall success.

By investing in a comprehensive onboarding and induction programme, you improve



Ronnie McCullough,  
Managing Director  
Tel: 07835 255794



Nicola Curry,  
HR Consultant



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Health & Safety Specialist

employee retention rates while avoiding staggering recruitment and replacement costs. It boosts productivity, fosters a positive company culture, reduces anxiety, encourages open communication and demonstrates your organisation's commitment to your team. This strategic effort saves significant long-term costs and contributes immensely to the growth and prosperity of your SME.

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# An action-packed summer of sport

Cricket showdowns, Formula 1 thrills, and more live on Sky Sports

A massive summer of cricket continues this month as Ben Stokes’ England take on the West Indies in three Test matches on home soil. The game at Lord’s is sure to be an emotional one as it sees fast-bowling legend James Anderson represent his country in Test cricket for the final time.

Cricket fans can also see England’s women go head-to-head with New Zealand in a T20 series, there’s action from the T20 Blast, and the fast and furious Hundred gets underway, with all of the men’s and women’s matches live on Sky Sports. Expect big sixes, quick wickets and nail-biting drama as the teams clash in the shortest form of the game.

There’ll be no shortage of drama from the oche of the Winter Gardens in Blackpool too, where the stars of darts will be contesting the World Matchplay. Nathan Aspinall is the defending champion after thrashing Jonny Clayton 18-6 in last year’s final, but world champion Luke Humphries and red-hot teenage sensation Luke Littler will be firm favourites this year.

Following the Austrian Grand Prix at the end of June, there are three Formula 1 race weekends in July. First up is the iconic British Grand Prix, and that’s followed by the races in Hungary and Belgium. Max Verstappen took the chequered flag in all of these races last season – can anyone stop him from winning the Drivers’ Championship for the fourth season in a row?

Meanwhile, the biggest names in golf will be going head-to-head in the fourth and final Major of the season, The Open Championship at Royal Troon. Brian Harman claimed the Claret Jug last year after finishing six shots clear.

Rugby fans will be able to catch all the tries and tackles from three huge Summer Rugby International tours. England face the mighty All Blacks in New Zealand, Wales head Down Under to take on Australia, and Ireland and the Springboks go head-to-head in South Africa.

There’s also every game live from the Super League, plus WTA and ATP tennis, PGA Tour and DP World Tour golf and much more.

You can promote all this content by using your MySkySports.com account to create posters and social media posts, helping members to plan ahead and visit your club more, so you can establish yourself as the best place to enjoy live sport.



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sky sports

**A selection of sports fixtures in July:**

Friday 5th - 7th July ..... Formula 1 - British Grand Prix

Saturday 6th July ..... New Zealand v England - 8.05am  
(Summer Rugby Internationals)

Australia v Wales - 10.45am

South Africa v Ireland - 4pm

Argentina v France - 8pm

Wednesday 10th July ..... England v West Indies - 1st Test

Saturday 13th July ..... World Matchplay Darts

DP World Tour: Genesis Scottish Open

New Zealand v England - 8.05am  
(Summer Rugby Internationals)

Australia v Wales - 10.45am

South Africa v Ireland - 4pm

Argentina v France - 8pm

Thursday 18th - 21st ..... Golf Major - The Open Championship

England v West Indies - 2nd Test

Friday 19th - 21st July ..... Formula 1 - Hungarian Grand Prix

Thursday 25th July ..... Golf - Senior Open Championship

Friday 26th - 28th July ..... Formula 1 - Belgian Grand Prix

# Coca-Cola HBC launches Finlandia vodka

Coca-Cola HBC is delighted to announce the expansion of its Premium Spirits offering in Northern Ireland with Finlandia vodka. Following its acquisition of the Finlandia vodka brand from Brown-Forman in 2023, Coca-Cola HBC is excited to bring this unique brand to customers.

Finlandia is a clean, dry, pure, and smooth vodka and is made from pure glacial water and local barley in Finland. In comparison to other brands, Finlandia is free from impurities with nothing added.

For 2024, Finlandia will be available in its Classic flavour as well as Grapefruit, Cranberry and Coconut. The brand will be launched to market with an integrated marketing plan including digital & social media, in-trade engagement opportunities and sampling and activation.

Kylie Magee, Marketing Director for CCHBC Ireland & NI commented, “Finlandia is a vodka brand like no other, its taste, heritage, and sustainability credentials call to our target consumers. In Ireland, Vodka is currently the second largest spirit category and projected to continue to grow ahead of the market over the next five years. We are excited to work with our customers to offer Finlandia to consumers, with new menus and a great range of mixable flavours.”



For more information on Finlandia or Coca-Cola HBC’s wider range contact your local Key Account or Sales Representative. #DrinkResponsibly

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# Marie Curie Northern Ireland

Marie Curie provides expert hospice care across Northern Ireland for people at the end of life and we push for a better end of life for all by campaigning and sharing research.

Our supporters and volunteers are vital to funding this important work and we are very grateful for all the amazing fundraising activities that have been happening across Northern Ireland.

Look out for our Twilight Walk 2024, taking place on Friday 27th September at Barnett Demense, Belfast, when hundreds of people will be gathering to walk in support of Marie Curie and in memory of loved ones. We hope to see you there! [www.mariecurie.org.uk/twilightwalk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/twilightwalk)



# Omagh Half Marathon

On Sunday 7th April hundreds of people took part in the SPAR Omagh Half Marathon and Marie Curie was delighted to be chosen as the official charity partner.

Omagh Harriers have now raised an incredible £10,000 from this event, which will help Marie Curie to deliver end of life care locally.

Thank you to all the runners, organisers and volunteers for your amazing support of Marie Curie.

# Belfast Marathon

Congratulations to all the amazing people who took part in the Belfast City Marathon in May for Marie Curie. We had over 100 people taking part in the full marathon, relay and walk and altogether they have now raised over an incredible £70,000!



# Spar's Blooming Great Summer

The first weekend in June saw SPAR stores across Northern Ireland host tea parties, a superhero day, spin challenges and other activities with the goal of raising over £50,000 for Marie Curie's services across Northern Ireland.



# Deborah McLean and Robert Magee

Siblings Deborah McLean and Robert Magee marked Father's Day this year by walking to raise money for Marie Curie in memory of their late father Bobby.

Mr Magee senior died at the Belfast hospice on Christmas Day in 1989, leaving his two young children fatherless at the age of 11 and 6.

Deborah and Robert walked around 17 miles from Belfast City Hall to Deborah's home in Whitehead the Saturday before Father's Day.

Robert said: "Losing a parent at such a young age is very strange as you have to deal with the grief as a child but then try to process the loss as an adult too. Life milestones like new additions to the family bring things back to the fore a lot as well."

"As adults and parents, we can't help but think of what our Dad was going through and thinking about knowing that he was going to be leaving two children and a young wife behind. Luckily, all of our memories of our Dad are that he was an incredible father to us and loved us more than anything and that love we extend to our children."

Thank you to Deborah and Robert for your amazing support of Marie Curie.





# Heineken - The beer of champions



Enjoying the match and hospitality on the night were (l-r) Stevie Glenholmes, Raymie Bonner, John Glenholmes, Hugh McIlvenny and Bobby McIlvenny from Andersonstown Social Club in West Belfast.

Last month, leading drinks brand Heineken hosted an exclusive screening of the Champions League Final for more than 60 VIPs and licensed trade customers in Belfast.

Organised by Craigavon-based drinks distributor and wholesaler United Wines, guests were treated to complimentary drinks, food and popcorn as they watched Real Madrid beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 in the climax of the Heineken-sponsored Champions League.

The big screen event was the closing celebration of the brand's Champions League campaign in Northern Ireland, which included an On-Trade Champions League Roadshow across 40 Heineken draught accounts, and numerous Off Trade consumer activations at more than 65 independent off licences.



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# NIFWA donate £1,500 to the Alzheimer’s Society

To mark Dementia Action Week, the Northern Ireland Football Writers’ Association has donated £1,500 to the Alzheimer’s Society.

The money was collected at the recent NI Football Awards, an event the Football Writers’ host in conjunction with the NI Football League.

The Alzheimer’s Society is a charity close to the heart of NIFWA Chairman, Michael Clarke.

Michael explained, “I’m so pleased to make this contribution on behalf of the Football Writers, and I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who kindly donated at the NI Football Awards.

“I have close experience of the impact that Alzheimer’s has on both the individual and their family and I’d like to dedicate this donation to the memory of my nanny, Vera Clarke, who was an amazing woman.”



NIFWA Chairman Michael Clarke presents Linzi Stewart of Alzheimer’s Society NI with a cheque for £1,500.

The Alzheimer’s Society is made up of people with dementia, carers, trusted experts, campaigners, researchers and clinicians. They have over 40 years of experience addressing the biggest challenges facing people living with dementia.

There are over 24,000 people in Northern Ireland living with dementia.

Linzi Stewart from Alzheimer’s Society NI said, “We’re so grateful that the Football Writers’ chose us as their charity partners for this season.

“This donation will make a big difference by helping Alzheimer’s Society give vital support to those who need it most, hold decision-makers to account, and fund groundbreaking research to transform the future for everyone living with dementia.

“Alzheimer’s Society are the only charity in the UK that provides help and hope for people with dementia and their carers. We also campaign to raise awareness and help fund research, so we’re helping both now and in the future.

“If you have any concerns about dementia please give us a call and we can advise you what your local services are and what options are available to you.”

Dementia Action Week - which ran in May - was designed to raise awareness and improve dementia diagnosis rates.

For more information visit - [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

# Tullyvallen Rangers FC raise £1,325 for Air Ambulance NI

Tullyvallen Rangers FC Chairperson, Keith Henry, and Treasurer, Angela Henry, recently had the honour of visiting the local Air Ambulance NI airbase outside Lisburn.



There, they presented a generous cheque for £1,325 to support the vital work of the charity. This superb donation was the result of a successful tractor run held on Easter Monday, strongly supported by the local community.

Well done to everyone involved for such a fantastic team effort. These funds will definitely make an impact for a very worthy cause.



# Are you up for a challenge?

Whether you want to run, walk, jump, row, bike or hike, we would love you to join #TeamNICHS and help us continue the fight against chest, heart and stroke conditions in Northern Ireland.

If you don’t see anything you like below, get in touch and we can talk about some other ideas.

Download a copy of our fundraising guide at [www.nichs.org.uk/fundraisingguide](http://www.nichs.org.uk/fundraisingguide)



# Check out our 2024 events calendar below and get signed up!

Olympic Summer Virtual Challenge



Twilight Hearty Hike  
Sat 7 September



Europa Abseil  
Sun 15 September



Run To Remember  
Loughgall 5K  
Sun 29 September



Run In The Dark  
Belfast  
Wed 13 November



Almost 90% of our income comes from public donations.

For more information or to sign up:  
[www.nichs.org.uk/events](http://www.nichs.org.uk/events)  
E: [events@nichs.org.uk](mailto:events@nichs.org.uk)  
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# Women's Premiership Player of the Month

Lisburn Rangers forward, Gracie Conway, is the Sports Direct Women's Premiership Player of the Month for April/May. Gracey has made a superb start to the season, scoring six goals in five matches for Lisburn Rangers during April and May leading to her being awarded Player of the Month.

A delighted Conway said, "I'm very grateful to receive this award. The season has started well for us and I'm really happy with the opportunity to play in the Premiership. It is a big step up playing at this level. The tempo is a lot faster and I've had to adapt to it but my teammates have really helped me make those adjustments to my game."

The teenager scored four goals and provided two assists on Lisburn Rangers' route to the VBet Women's League Cup final.

The Lisburn club face Cliftonville at Blanchflower Park in the final on Sunday June 30th. Ahead of the final Conway said, "Everyone has worked so hard to get us there and I've been pleased to help my team with some goals along the way, but without my teammates I wouldn't get those chances. It's going to be a tough game but if we can focus on our performance, we believe we will do okay."



Gracie Conway collects her Sports Direct Women's Premiership Player of the Month trophy

James  
Martin's

CHARITY

GOLF

SCRAMBLE

Thursday 26th September 2024  
at Ballycastle Golf Club

Join Oscar winner **James Martin** MBE and guests including BBC Sports presenter **Stephen Watson** & former World Boxing Champion **Brian Magee** in aid of **Corrymeela**.

Tee off times from **10.00am**  
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# The Federation Invite New Members to Join

Benefit from expert support and advice on a range of topics related specifically to the day-to-day running of your club. Issues such as ever changing employment legislation, the 1996 Clubs Order, accountancy regulations, and rates relief, are only a small sample of the topics we can provide guidance on - guidance that will cost you less than £1 per week!

Our helplines are always a welcome source of information and prove beneficial to members.

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: .....

Authorised by: (1) .....

(2) .....

**Please sign and return to:**  
N.I. Federation of Clubs,  
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