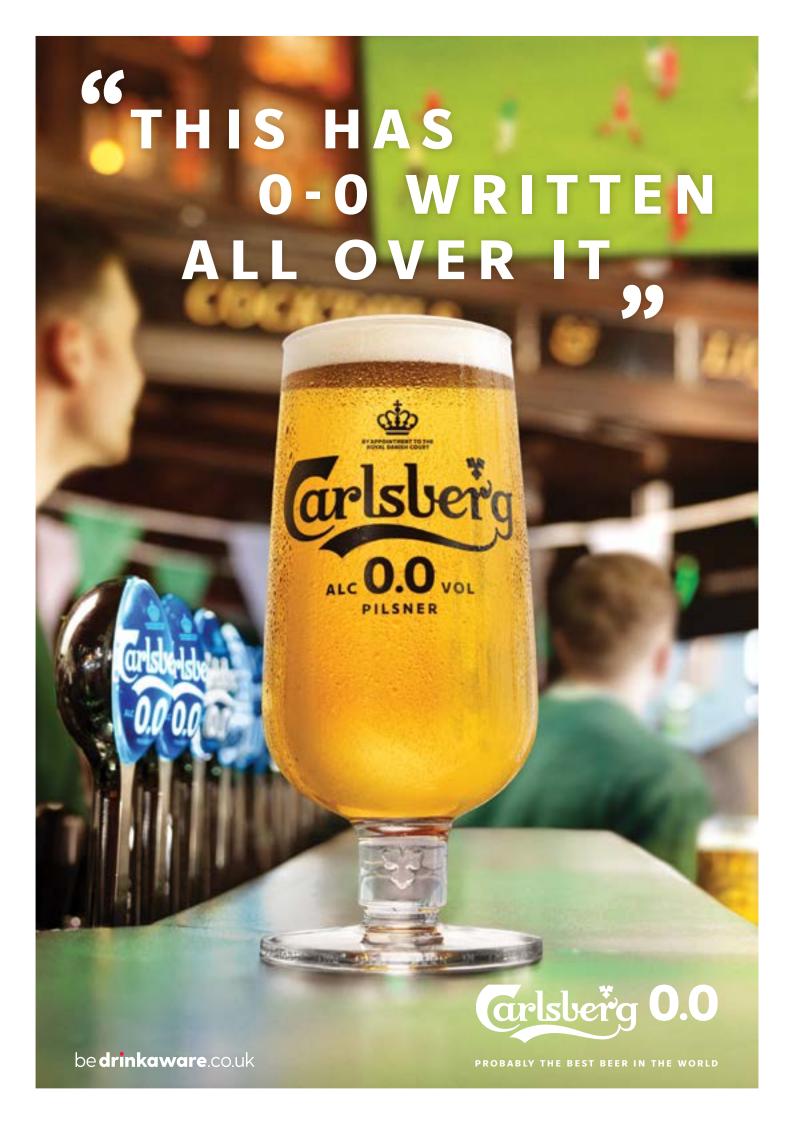
# Review EVIEW

**VOLUME 37 - Issue 6, 2024** 

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BORN IN THE ROCKIES, COLORADO



# New national government now in place - so what's to come?



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



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

In the previous issue of Club Review we expressed the importance of clubs not being overlooked in plans to boost the hospitality sector, highlighting the fact registered clubs continue to play an integral role in Northern Ireland's social scene.

Those clubs with a sports registration should be aware, and indeed avail, of that part of the Clubs Order which permits children and young people to be on club premises up to 11pm in the company of a coach or guardian between May and September. Of course Children's Certificates are no longer required, which equally applies throughout the hospitality sector.

We are pleased to have received a communication from Nicola Carruthers on the voluntary code of practice, which indicates that things are continuing on a very positive note with complaints at a low level. A meeting is planned in the near future to further discuss progress, the outcome of which will be reported in subsequent issues of the Review.

It was with great sadness that John Davidson, Brian McCartney and Harry Beckinsale attended the funeral Mass of our colleague, Billy Kane, who recently passed away following a long illness. Billy is remembered with fondness by the Federation Executive Committee and our condolences were extended to his wife Mary and the family circle.

The Helplines continue to be busy, with a wide range of queries being received and addressed promptly. This facility has been a big Federation success year on year and is an efficient way via which to assist members in the day-to-day management of their clubs.

Regretfully, we have suffered dreadful weather throughout this summer, and with the end of September approaching, we are unlikely to see much improvement as we move firmly into autumn, however we must remain positive and look forward to the festive season which will soon be upon us.

In the interim period, it is hoped the new Government and our Legislative Assembly will provide good governance for everyone, although we are extremely concerned that pensioners have been detrimentally affected by the cut in the heating allowance. We are naturally also concerned at the gloom and doom messages coming out of Downing Street that tough decisions are having to be made which may further impact on Northern Ireland. We speak on behalf of everyone, I think, in hoping things don't pan out as badly as feared in the forthcoming budget.

As always, we encourage you to give consideration to the Approved Suppliers who feature regularly in Club Review. Their support is essential to the Federation and it is only right that they are kept in mind when clubs engage trades and services.

John Davidson BEM - Chairman Harry Beckinsale BEM - Secretary

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# Using social media to promote your club

The use of social media platforms as a means of finding information and making decisions about where and what to eat and drink is now widespread.

With more than 200 million posts tagged #food and 23 million with #drinks annually, food and beverage photos are easily some of the most popular types of content on Instagram. It's very likely that your customers are posting with or without your interaction. When 88% of people are influenced by reviews and online comments, having an intentional digital strategy is important to your club and the promotion of its food and drinks offer. And it isn't only younger consumers who use social media for these purposes. If you're just getting

started on your social media accounts, make sure pertinent information like your hours and contact information can be easily accessed on your profile - don't just put this on your website and passively hope it will generate responses from members, potential new members or their families.

### But, don't you have to be a geek to do this?

Perhaps you feel all this is a bit too difficult, or beyond your ability and needs to be done by an 'expert', a 'geek' - anyone aged under 12! If so, then use this 'How To' information as a template and instruction manual for an online solution provider. Whether it's DIY social media or you employ an outside provider, you can't afford not to engage with

members, potential members and guests on social media - particularly if you want to attract and keep younger members.

# What is 'social media'? Old media

News, entertainment and advertising reaches us through newspapers, magazines, TV and the cinema. Content is controlled by a small group of individuals and organisations.

#### New media

News, entertainment and advertising can be made available to people through the internet, perhaps through the club's website or local news websites.

#### Social media

New social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

and YouTube now enable everyone with a computer, a tablet or a smartphone and internet access to share news, information and promotional content with club members, friends, family, colleagues and the wider world.

#### Save time and effort with Social Media management processes and tools

When you take the time to plan your social media in advance and invest in tools that help to save you time and effort, you are far more likely to achieve the positive results you hoped for.

#### Here are some top tips for getting organised with your social media:

• Invest in Social Media Management Tools



- Setup an account with an online social media management solution provider (e.g. Hootsuite or SproutSocial). These free or low-cost solutions enable you to send social media messages to all your accounts and keep tabs on your customer communications across the channels from a single dashboard. These tools can be used on your PC or Mac and via an app on your smart phone.
- Plan in advance
- Once every two weeks have a social media planning meeting or brainstorming session where you drum up ideas for new competitions, status updates, stories and important promotional messages you want to share online. Then save time by scheduling your posts in advance using a social media management tool.
- Get your wider team involved in creating content
- Don't burden one person with the sole responsibility of researching, creating and sending out all your social media posts. When it comes to social media content creation, several heads are definitely better than one. Brainstorm ideas together at your club committee planning sessions and share the content creation tasks. For example, make

different committee members responsible for photographing your weekly specials or for taking photographs at events.

### How Social Media can help your Club

- Increase awareness of your club, its restaurant and other leisure facilities
- When your social media fans and followers talk about, follow, like or share your social media profiles or content, potentially thousands more people will also see those public mentions of your club. Running a competition, making a special offer or advertising on social media also helps to increase awareness of your business.
- Create a buzz about your latest food and drink offer
- You can post photographs, video and engaging text updates on your social media accounts to draw attention to your latest menu items.
- Get customer feedback and insights
- Today's customers love it when you ask for their opinion on your business. Use social media to find out what your members and guests think about your new drinks or menu items. Thinking of running a new darts, snooker or live music evening? Why not ask your customers' first or invite them

- to suggest an alternative type of event for your club?
- Promote your events
- Talk about the seasonal events you're hosting, e.g. Christmas, New Year's Eve, Halloween - it's not just for kids! Social media also provides a quick and easy way to promote your regular music gigs or football and other sports screenings.
- Update customers on your latest news
- Have you refurbished your bar or restaurant area? Did you raise money for your favourite charity this month? Whatever your news, make sure to take a photograph and post it with a short news update on your social media accounts.
- Encourage sales with offers and specials
- Fill those quiet periods by promoting specials or offers across your social media accounts.
- Make it easier for customers to recommend your business
- Google+ and Facebook allow members and guests to star rate and review your club.
- Google+ ratings are especially important as they can also help improve your search engine rating.
- If you don't have any social media accounts, you are also far less likely to be mentioned and linked to in



your customer's social media conversations.

- Promote job vacancies
- Mention new job posts on your social media accounts and encourage your existing staff to share vacancy information with their friends and family.
- Connect with other businesses and your wider community
- Win more friends and fans online when you rave about your top suppliers and name check other local businesses.
   People love to share positive comments about their business, so spread the love and you could end up with a win-win situation for both parties.
- Monitor your competitors
- Keep a close eye on your competitors by following or reviewing their social media accounts on a regular basis.
- Build a customer database
- Add a newsletter sign-up form to your Facebook page so you can build your customer database and stay in touch with your customers via email.

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# **Membership recruitment**

Apart from financial control, the key to a club's future success lies in the ability to recruit new members. In most clubs, whatever facilities are available, only one third of the total membership uses the club regularly and its hard core is less than this. The aim, therefore, is to increase the total membership in order to increase the proportion which makes up one third.

Membership recruitment is a matter which should be discussed regularly by committees. Without a continuous programme of membership recruitment, a club will eventually weaken. Club committees often place the onus of responsibility for recruiting new members

on themselves, rather than correctly placing it on the membership. It is the members who must propose and second new members, not just the committee.

It does seem that people are often encouraged to become involved in membership recruitment if there is some form of reward involved. One of the most successful recruitment schemes is known as the 'bounty system,' whereby a member who introduces a new member receives some form of payment, usually by way of a bar voucher. For example, if a club's membership subscription is £10, the payment of a £10 bar voucher to the introductory member

(which will actually only cost the club the value of the stock, rather than the whole £10) has in many cases created a great deal of interest.

A further method which has often proved successful, is the announcement that the club intends to close the membership book. You would be surprised how many people will suddenly wish to become members of a club if they think the club will be difficult to join. I suspect that human nature dictates that most of us wish to belong to something which has an element of exclusivity.

Experience has also shown that many clubs will recruit new members and will lose

them at the following year's renewal time. I believe one of the reasons for this is that new members are not always made as welcome as they should be.

All clubs, by their very nature, tend to have established groups and sections and these can seem daunting to a new person using the club for the first time. Three or four new members' evenings should be organised during the course of the year to which all members who have joined during the previous period are invited. These social occasions are a great way to help 'break the ice' and forge friendships with existing members.



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Are you ready to elevate your club to the next level? Look no further than Pubs Clubs Interiors (PCI), the leading hospitality refurbishment firm based in Bangor. With a reputation built on exceptional craftsmanship and unparalleled quality, PCI specialises in transforming hospitality spaces into vibrant, inviting destinations that keep guests coming back.

#### **Experience the PCI Difference**

PCI understand that every venue has a unique story to tell. That's why they approach each project with a bespoke touch, tailoring every detail to meet the specific needs of the establishment. Their recent refurbishment of the Nines Hotel in Bangor is a testament to their dedication to excellence. As you can see from the photographs, their meticulous design and high-quality workmanship have completely revitalised the space, turning it into a stunning and welcoming environment for guests.

From modern and chic to classic and cozy, PCI's team of skilled professionals brings your vision to life with creativity and precision. They blend innovative design with top-tier materials to deliver refurbishments that not only look fantastic but also enhance functionality and flow.

### Elevate the Hospitality Experience for Your Members

Whether you're looking to refresh your club's interior, upgrade its aesthetics, or completely transform your members' experience, PCI is ready to help you achieve your goals. They pride themselves on enhancing the atmosphere and ambiance of every space they

touch, ensuring your members and guests enjoy a memorable hospitality experience.

Their commitment to quality and client satisfaction means they work closely with you throughout every stage of the refurbishment process - from concept to completion. They listen carefully to your needs and ensure that the final result exceeds your expectations.

### Why Choose Pubs Clubs Interiors?

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### Ready to Take Your Venue to the Next Level?

Don't just imagine the possibilities - experience them with PCI. Let them help you create a captivating space that enhances the hospitality experience for your members and guests. Contact them today to discuss your project and discover how they can turn your vision into reality.

#### **Pubs Clubs Interiors**

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# **Questions & Answers**

**Q.** I am a club secretary and receive an honorarium. Do I have to pay tax on this?

A. Some secretaries, although not employed, do receive payments of honoraria in compensation for the time they spend on their voluntary duties. An honorarium is, by definition, a 'voluntary fee for a voluntary service.' It is accepted that an



is not a salary and in the past, recipients of honoraria have been left to declare the sums received on their personal tax returns, which include their other earnings.

Since 1993, HMRC has taken the view that 'in general, honoraria are taxable and it is up to the payer to deduct tax under PAYE.' The 'payer' in such cases is the club and not, for example, the treasurer who may pay his own honorarium to himself as a matter of practice. HMRC advises: 'If you are paying an honorarium for the first time, or if payments you have made before have not been taxed under PAYE, your Tax Office will tell you what to do.' The Tax Office referred to here is the one which covers the

address of the club and may not be the same as the officeholder's own Tax Office.

Q. We have a problem with young guests to the club causing damage to our snooker room. Would it be permissible to restrict young guests to a specific part of the club?

A. There is no reason why the committee cannot introduce a bye-law restricting members' guests to a specific area of the club. This would mean that you could keep the snooker room purely for paid up members and their adult guests only. Alternatively, you could attempt to discover who is causing the damage. If a member has signed in a guest who breaks the club's rules or causes damage, then the member who signed the person in will be responsible for their behaviour and, possibly, liable for any damage that they have caused.

Q. I have recently been elected as the secretary of our club and have been advised that I do not have voting rights at committee meetings. I do receive an honorarium for this position. Is the advice I have been given correct?

**A.** A secretary who is elected by the members annually from among their own number, and who in recognition of his service receives an honorarium, retains his full membership rights and voting rights at committee meetings. Please note that the honorarium does not constitute salary and, therefore, a person in receipt of an honorarium does not become an employee. An honorarium is subject to PAYE and the recipient does

not enjoy any employment rights. The payment of honoraria can be withdrawn at any time. In the event of a person being appointed as an employed secretary then such a person, if appointed by the committee from the membership, would be obliged to give up his membership of the club. An employed secretary has no voting rights at committee meetings. Therefore, since you have been elected by the members and receive an honorarium, you are an 'elected' not an 'appointed' secretary.

Q. We had an incident inside the club and as a result the police were called. After taking statements from the parties involved, the police have decided to take no action. Several members of the committee feel that the member involved should face a disciplinary hearing; can we take disciplinary action against a member if the police have already decided that they will not prosecute the member?

**A.** The committee are not bound by the decision of the police not to prosecute. The police base a decision to prosecute or not to prosecute on a number of factors and a decision not to prosecute does not necessarily mean that the person is not guilty of the allegation. The committee can hold a disciplinary meeting and review the allegations and make their own decision regarding what, if any, action is required under the terms of the club's rules.

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



# St Patrick's Dromintee GAC go digital

After reading several positive reviews, the St Patrick's committee decided to explore their options with BOIPA UK for accepting card and contactless payments.

They were pleasantly surprised to discover that BOIPA UK would save them nearly 50% compared to their previous payment provider - an incredible reduction in costs.

They couldn't believe how remarkably painless and straightforward the changeover process was, thanks in no small part to Kieran McIlwaine and his team of engineers. All they had to do was provide a few details, and Kieran took care of all the paperwork. When Vincent, one of their engineers, arrived with the new terminal, he provided a clear explanation of how the devices work. "They are so userfriendly that they practically run themselves!", said Assistant Treasurer, Brea McShane.

Overall, the club's experience with BOIPA UK has been outstanding - and they have no hesitation in giving them a 5-star rating for the service they received from start to finish. St Patrick's highly recommend other clubs make the switch!

To get your club connected call: Kieran McIlwaine

T: 07388 990902

**E:** Kieran.Mcilwaine@BOIPA. co.uk



(Left-right) Therese McGuinness, Executive Member, and Brea McShane, Assistant Treasurer.





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# **Building a resilient workplace**

# 10 strategies to support your employees



Supporting employees with mental health issues, stress and anxiety requires a multifaceted approach that promotes a healthy work environment, provides resources, and fosters open communication.

Here are several strategies to consider:

#### 1. Create a Supportive Culture

Promote a culture that supports open communication around mental health issues. Encourage open discussions and seeking help as required. Provide mental health awareness training for managers and staff to help them recognise signs of stress and anxiety and respond appropriately.

#### 2. Flexible Working Conditions

Try to accommodate flexible working hours and remote work options to help employees manage their workload and personal responsibilities. Ensure workloads are manageable and provide additional support during high-stress periods.

### 3. Access to Professional Support - Employee Assistance Programs

Offer EAPs that provide confidential counselling services and support for mental health issues. Mental Health Resources:



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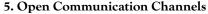
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Provide information about local mental health services, hotlines, and online resources.

#### 4. Promote Work-Life Balance

Encourage employees to take regular breaks, use annual leave, and avoid overworking. Implement wellness programmes that promote physical health, such as yoga classes, meditation sessions, or gym memberships.



Schedule regular one-to-one meetings between managers and employees to discuss workload, stress levels, and well-being. Provide channels for anonymous feedback so employees can voice concerns without fear of repercussions.

#### 6. Create a Healthy Work Environment

Ensure workspaces are comfortable and conducive to productivity. Provide designated areas where employees can take breaks and relax.

#### 7. Provide Training and Resources

Stress Management Workshops: Offer workshops and training sessions on stress management, mindfulness, and resilience. Resource Library: Create a library of resources, including books, articles, and online courses focused on mental health and stress reduction.



Ronnie McCullough, Managing Director Tel: 07835 255794



Nicola Curry, HR Consultant



Alan Hall, Health & Safety Specialist

#### 8. Encourage Peer Support

Peer Support Groups: Facilitate the creation of peer support groups where employees can share experiences and support each other. Buddy System: Implement a buddy system where employees can pair up to provide mutual support and check in on each other's well-being.

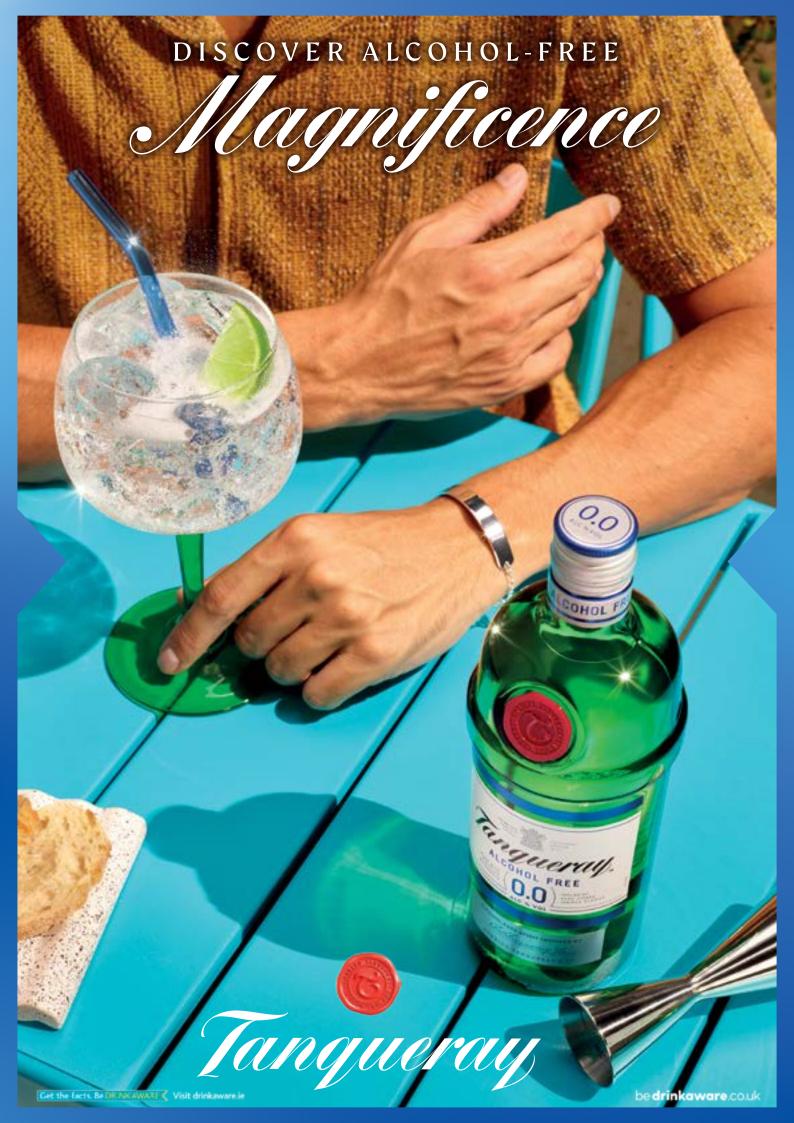
#### 9. Leadership Commitment

Lead by Example: Ensure leaders and managers model healthy behaviours, such as taking breaks and managing stress effectively. Transparent Policies: Develop and communicate clear policies related to mental health, including procedures for requesting assistance and support.

#### 10. Monitor and Adapt

Conduct regular employee surveys to gauge stress levels and mental health. Use feedback to continually improve mental health support initiatives and adapt to changing needs.

By implementing these strategies, employers can create a supportive environment that helps employees manage stress, anxiety, and other mental health issues effectively.





Hurry, the 24/25 season has kicked off Call to 03300 295 728 to find out more



# **Epic showdowns ahead**

# A thrilling line-up of football, cricket, F1, golf, and more in September and October!

There are some massive matches in the Premier League for football fans to look forward to in September and October.

Some of the highlights include Tottenham versus Arsenal in the North London derby, Manchester City versus Arsenal - last season's top two - going head-to-head at the Etihad Stadium, while Manchester United face Spurs at Old Trafford.

There's also a feast of football in the EFL, with all the biggest games from the Championship, League 1 and League 2, plus the best matches in the Carabao Cup, the EFL Trophy, the Scottish Premiership, the WSL and the Bundesliga.

There's some fast and furious cricket too. England and Australia clash in a T20 series, before competing in a five-match ODI series. Meanwhile, England and Scotland's women are in action in October's ICC Women's T20 World Cup. Australia have won the last three editions of this event. Closer to home, there's the final of the One Day Cup, plus all the thrills from the Vitality Blast Finals Day.

The Super League reaches its climax, with the Eliminators, semi-finals and Grand Final live on Sky Sports. There's also darts action, as world champion Luke Humphries defends his World Grand Prix title, while Formula 1's finest

will be competing in the Azerbaijan and Singapore Grands Prix.

As well as DP World Tour, PGA Tour, LET and LPGA Tour golf, the unmissable Solheim Cup gets underway on Friday

Team Europe have held the trophy since 2019 but face a strong United States team in what's always a nail-biting competition.

Of course, that's not all. Your members can enjoy all the biggest games in the NFL, the final two rounds of the Rugby Championship, the Currie Cup play-offs, live tennis, international netball and much more, giving you everything you need to make your venue the home of live sport.

Don't forget to 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.



Picture courtesy of Getty Images



#### SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

obi i bivibbit, oci obbit
Wednesday 25th SeptemberArsenal v Bolton (Carabao Cup) - 7.45pm
Saturday 28th SeptemberWolves v Liverpool - 5.30pm
Sunday 29th September
Monday 30th September Bournemouth $\boldsymbol{v}$ Southampton - $8.00 pm$
Wednesday 2nd OctoberPreston North End v Watford - 7.45pm
Friday 4th October Sunderland v Leeds Utd - 8.00pm
Saturday 5th October Everton v Newcastle Utd - 5.30pm
Sunday 6th OctoberAston Villa v Man Utd - 2.00pm Bristol City v Cardiff City - 3.00pm Brighton v Spurs - 4.30pm
Monday 7th - 13th October Darts World Grand Prix
Thursday 10th-13th OctoberPGA Tour: Black Desert Championship
Saturday 12th October



# Corporate News

# United Wines tees up partnership with Slieve Donard at The Irish Open

The Irish Open at Royal County Down (September 11th-15th), saw leading Northern Ireland drinks distributor United Wines tee up a partnership with Slieve Donard, a Marine & Lawn Hotel & Resort, located just steps from the course.

Keeping golf enthusiasts and visitors refreshed, the partnership brought a selection of United Wines' most popular brands on draught - such as Heineken, Birra Moretti, Orchard Thieves, Cruzcampo and Beavertown Neck Oil - along with bottled products, including the popular Heineken 0.0, one of Northern Ireland's fastest growing alcohol-free brands to Slieve Donard.

To mark the new partnership, United Wines erected a premium marquee, adjacent to the famous Percy French bar, with live music every night of the Irish Open.

Heineken also supplied lager within the grounds of Royal County Down for Irish Open spectators. The Heineken brand has a long association with sport, from football to Formula 1, and has served its lager portfolio at some of the world's best golf destinations.



Ewan Plenderleith (left), General Manager of the Slieve Donard in Newcastle, and Matthew Fitzpatrick, On-Trade Key Account Manager for United Wines, celebrate a new partnership which kept golf enthusiasts and visitors refreshed during the Irish Open at Royal County Down.

# **HEVERLEE** reveals brand refresh

Heverlee, the premium pilsner lager, is undergoing a brand refresh with an evolved brand visual identity.

The new look sees a continued premiumisation of all branding and point of sale materials, with the iconic Heverlee fox, designed by renowned Belgian street-artist Dzia, remaining at the heart of the design. The new design includes enhanced gold detailing and a subtle nod to the fox in the wordmark.

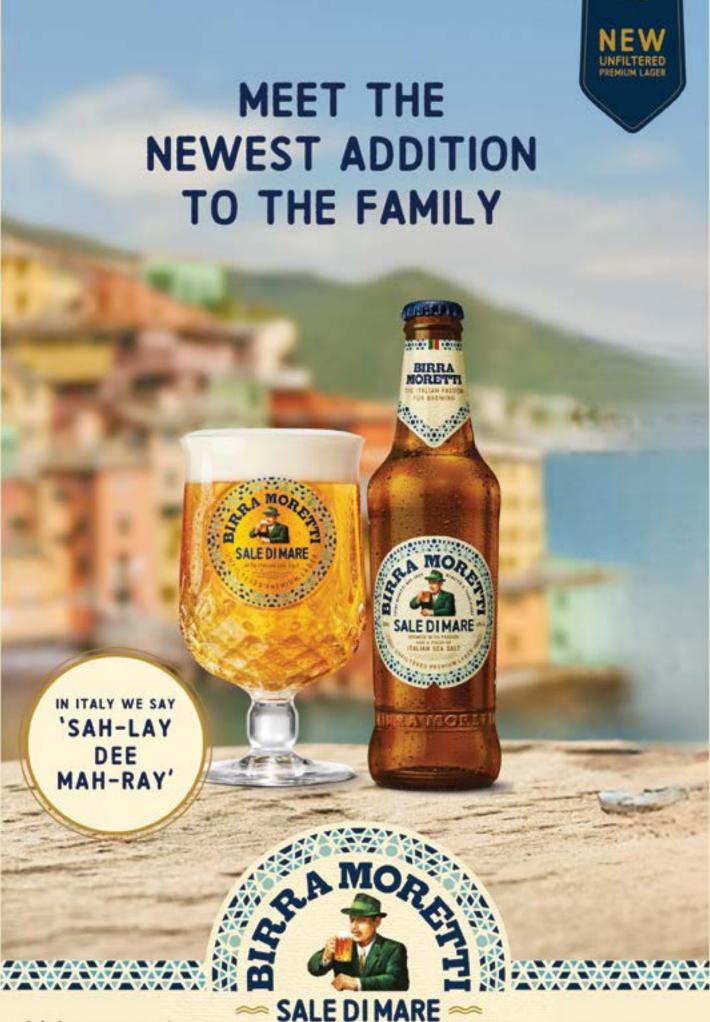
The design has been informed and validated by robust consumer research across the UK, including in Northern Ireland, with respondents feeding back positively that the new design looked distinct, unique, premium, modern and refreshing.

The new design led Heverlee to bring home a major win at the 2024 World Beer Awards, a global competition celebrating the best in brewing. The brand secured Gold for the World's Best Bottle Label Design, celebrating the artistry behind the bottle's visual appeal.

Heverlee Brand Manager, Michael McAdam said, "Heverlee is going from strength to strength and we want to accelerate that by continuing to premiumise across the brand. We have carefully evolved Heverlee's visual identity to bring in gold detailing and softer curves on labelling, while making more of our fox icon."

He adds, "The feedback we have had from consumers about the new look is really encouraging and we are confident that we're setting the brand and our customers up for continued success in the years to come."





# Corporate News

# Drinks Inc. launches exclusive new ranges at special tasting event

New aperitivo and alcohol-free products from

# Italian winery Mionetto

Wholesale drinks company Drinks Inc. celebrated the launch of two exclusive new brands into its portfolio at a summer party held in Belfast in August.

Mionetto Aperitivo and Mionetto Prosecco 0.0% are the latest products from Italian winery Mionetto, for which Drinks Inc. has been the agent for over 3 years.

James McLornan, Drinks Inc. Category Manager said, "We have worked in partnership with Mionetto for over 3 years and are delighted to add these new Mionetto additions to our ever-growing portfolio. There has been a huge surge in both the zero alcohol and spirit aperitifs categories, with alcohol free growing by 23% in the last 12 months. We're very pleased

to be able to offer our on- and off-trade customers more quality products from Mionetto."

Shane McNally, Country Manager, from Mionetto added, "We introduced Mionetto Aperitivo, a bittersweet herbal liqueur, into our collection in response to a growing trend for Spritz drinks, which increased in volume by 6.4% in 2023. We are very pleased to further strengthen our relationship with Drinks Inc. and look forward to seeing these lines available to our customers across Northern Ireland."

Mionetto 0.0% gives sparkling wine lovers the opportunity to enjoy the taste of Mionetto Prosecco, alcohol free. Produced using Glera grapes, it has hints of citrus and green apple on the nose. The liquid



Drinks Inc. Category Manager, James McLornan, and Country Manager for Freixenet Copestick Limited, Shane McNally at the recent launch event.

undergoes gentle alcohol reduction, resulting in a fresh and fruity alcohol-free sparkling drink, with a slight sweetness. For more information visit www.drinksinc.com

# ICO launches new tool to generate privacy notices

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched a new, quick and easy-to-use tool to help small organisations and sole traders in the hospitality sector create a bespoke privacy notice and protect people's information rights.

Under data protection law, every organisation that holds people's information needs to explain why it holds it and what it does with it.

Organisations can provide this

information through a privacy notice, which is displayed on its website or included in other communications, to ensure they're compliant. In just a few simple steps, the new privacy notice generator can create tailored privacy notices relevant to small organisations in all sectors of the economy.

For example, organisations in the hospitality sector often have people's information. This can include names, contact and payment details.

By using the privacy notice generator, they can create an up-to-date privacy notice to let people know what they do with their information.

The tool offers two different types of privacy notice. One for customer and supplier information, which organisations can display on their website or external communications. And another for staff information, for inclusion in welcome packs, policy libraries or other

internal channels accessible to staff and volunteers.

You can find the privacy notice generator on the ICO's website for small organisations here: ico.org.uk/create-your-own-privacy-notice



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# **Charity Update**

# Local entertainer Roy McNaught strikes a chord for charity - raising £3,900 for Cancer Fund for Children

Kids in Need is a voluntary fundraising organisation founded and managed by local entertainer and businessman Roy McNaught, along with his family and friends.

Roy McNaught has been a well-established entertainer for many years, during which time he has generously used his talent to raise funds for various charitable and worthy causes. His passion for helping others is evident through the numerous shows and events he organises. These events are often supported by a group of like-minded entertainers who willingly provide their services free of charge. This spirit of generosity ensures that all proceeds from the events are

donated to designated good causes.

One such event was recently held at the Clonard Hibernian Club, a Federation member club in Belfast, on Sunday 31st August. The event was a great success, raising an impressive £3,900 for the Cancer Fund for Children.

Following this successful fundraiser, on Monday 9th September, Roy, accompanied by Federation Secretary Harry Beckinsale, visited the head office of the Cancer Fund for Children to present the cheque. They were warmly received by Beth Weir of the fundraising department, who invited Roy to visit the new facility at Daisy

Lodge in Newcastle. This visit was especially meaningful to Roy, as it was at this facility he first met the late Margaret McAlpine, founder of





Beth Weir of the Cancer Fund for Children receives a cheque for £3,900 from Roy McNaught of Kids in Need.

the charity, a respected figure known to the Federation and throughout the club sector.

Daisy Lodge, located in the scenic surroundings of Newcastle, County Down, is a state-of-the-art therapeutic short break facility for children diagnosed with cancer and their families. The facility, operated by the Cancer Fund for Children, provides a haven where families can take time out from hospital visits and treatment plans to spend quality time together in a relaxing environment. The centre offers tailored support, with programs and activities designed to promote emotional well-being and resilience for

both the child and their family. The warm and welcoming atmosphere at Daisy Lodge allows families to connect with others facing similar challenges, fostering a sense of community and support. It is a testament to the dedication of organisations like the Cancer Fund for Children in providing much-needed respite and care during some of the most challenging times in a family's life

Well done to Roy and everyone else involved in their fabulous fundraising endeavours. Their efforts continue to make a significant difference in the lives of children and families affected by cancer.

# TRANS 4 MATION UPHOLSTERY

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# Sports Report

### **NI Football Writers Awards**

Linfield boss David Healy is the NIFWA Manager of the Month for August. The Blues made a fine start to the domestic campaign with wins over Ballymena United, Dungannon Swifts, Glenavon and Loughgall before drawing with Portadown.

Healy's win completed a double for Linfield, with Joel Cooper named Player of the Month. Healy said, "August was a good month for us. I was disappointed we failed to beat Portadown as we had a fantastic opportunity to finish the month with maximum points but no manager will complain about taking 13 points from the first five games. It's up to us to build on this solid start to the season."

Linfield star Joel Cooper is the Sports Direct Premiership Player of the Month for August. Cooper inspired the Blues to an unbeaten month with wins over Ballymena United, Dungannon Swifts, Glenavon and Loughgall. The former Oxford United man registered four goals in the first month of the season.

A delighted Cooper said, "As an attacker, you always want to start the season well and score a few goals, but the important thing is that the team is winning. "You can't create chances and score goals if the players behind you aren't doing their job, so this award also belongs to my teammates.

"I'd like to thank both the Football Writers and their sponsors Sports Direct for this award. It's always nice to get individual recognition."

NIFWA Chair Michael Clarke said, "I'm delighted to be able

to present Joel, not only with his Belleek trophy, but also with a Sports Direct voucher. Sports Direct not only sponsor the NIFL Premiership, they are also the new sponsors of NIFWA's Player of the Month award. We're really pleased to have such a big-name brand on board for the new season."

Armagh City striker Igor Rutkowski has been named Championship Player of the Month for August. The former Portadown forward bagged four goals as newly promoted Armagh finished the first month of the season undefeated, with wins over Annagh United and Ards.

Rutkowski said, "It has been a great month, not only for me but for the entire club. We probably started the season as favourites for relegation, so for us to be in the top half of the table is incredible. It's pleasing to get an individual award but credit must go to the entire team."

Glentoran forward Rachel Rogan is August's Sports Direct Women's Premiership Player of the Month. Rogan scored four goals in four games, including the opener in the County Antrim Cup Final win over Cliftonville.

Rachel is no stranger to this award, winning the inaugural NIFWA monthly prize in 2019. She said, "I had to be patient this season and wait for my chance, but with Kerry Beattie getting her big move to Hearts, that chance came and I have just tried to take full advantage of it. I'd like to thank the Football Writers for picking me, I was delighted to get the call. Considering the quality in our team it could have easily gone to a few of the girls."



Linfield boss David Healy collects his Manager of the Month trophy from NIFWA Chair, Michael Clarke.

Linfield's Joel Cooper collects his Sports Direct Premiership Player of the Month award from Matthew Calderwood of Sports Direct and NIFWA Chair, Michael Clarke.



NIFWA Chair, Michael Clarke, presents Armagh City forward, Igor Rutkowski, with the Championship Player of the Month trophy for August.



NIFWA Chair, Michael Clarke, presents Glentoran's Rachel Rogan with her Player of the Month prize.



# 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



# Check out our 2024/25 events calendar below and get signed up!

Run To Remember Loughgall 5K Sun 29 September 3

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Run In The Dark

**Belfast** 



**Belfast City Marathon**Sun 4 May



Wed 13 November

Almost 90%

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For more information or to sign up: **www.nichs.org.uk/events** 

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