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VOLUME 37 - Issue 1, 2024

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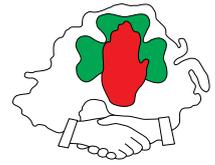


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2024 - A year of optimism and progress for the Federation



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



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

A belated welcome to 2024, a year which the Federation views with increased optimism.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your support, which has played a vital role in helping us come through difficult times. We are confident of maintaining and developing our position as a major part of the hospitality sector, with an increasing number of new members applying for Federation membership.

The Federation is also pleased to confirm that while developing its presence via digital media, Club Review will continue to be printed and distributed to its members eight times per year. Additionally, digital copies will be available on the Federation website and Facebook page, both of which will remain free of charge. It is also worth mentioning that any up-to-date activities/events our associated suppliers may be engaged in will be provided with space for text and imagery to promote them, when space is available.

Time has flown by since the beginning of COVID and the many difficulties it created for the entire hospitality sector, and it is regretful that a number of

registered clubs and hospitality outlets succumbed to those difficulties.

We were pleased with the amendments secured to Northern Ireland's Licensing Legislation, which are beneficial to the entire hospitality sector and were overdue and required to bring requirements to a level suitable for modern times.

We are pleased to inform members that we plan to recommence hosting the Federation AGM with an intended date this year in May 2024, with the exact date being confirmed shortly.

As outlined earlier, we are delighted with the increase in membership applications, together with a substantial increase in Helpline and email enquiries for assistance on a range of issues. Our thanks also go to the Department of Communities, the PSNI, and local politicians for their valuable assistance in addressing a range of queries.

Difficulties in addressing employment issues are an area of concern for many clubs due to complying with employment law, with our advice continuing to

direct management committees to engage the services of their club insurance if the policy covers HR matters. If this aspect is not covered in your club policy, we have advised members to contact RKM Business Solutions founder Ronnie McCullough on 07835 255794, a club man himself and very experienced in the field of employment legislation.

It is important to emphasise the need to engage the services of our suppliers, all of whom have been supportive of the registered club sector through good and bad times, and we take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their continued support.

Membership of the Confederation of Registered Clubs Association (CORCA) remains important, and while we were unfortunately unable to attend the recent meeting for unavoidable reasons, we were nevertheless engaged within the meeting agenda. We will be attending the next meeting in London in April 2024, which will enable us to provide an update of details at the Federation AGM in May.

In closing, we wish everyone good wishes in 2024 and extend thanks for the ongoing support of members and suppliers.

John Davidson - *Chairman*
Harry Beckinsale - *Secretary*

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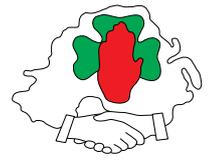
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Minutes of the Executive Meeting



Hosted by the Harland & Wolff Welders FSC
on Wednesday 24th January 2024

The Executive Committee meeting began with the Chairman asking the Secretary to review the previous December meeting minutes, which included our Christmas lunch hosted by Diageo.

Unfortunately, our North West member, Gerry Gallagher, couldn't join us due to a medical appointment. However, we confirmed that he had addressed club matters satisfactorily.

The Federation Chairman has faced challenges due to a brief illness but, along with

the Secretary, continued to handle numerous calls via Helplines and email.

It is evident that the club constitution of all clubs plays a significant part in resolving issues/disputes, both between club members and committee members. The club constitution should include the solution to problems which is why a number of clubs are updating details in their respective constitutions.

Club committees are advised to examine the sample constitution rulebook available under downloads on the Federation website.

We discussed the increasing number of clubs joining the Federation, with many opting to renew membership fees via standing order, simplifying processes for the Federation Treasurer. Some still renew by cheque, but they're urged to consider the standing order option.

A brief discussion took place on plans for the Federation AGM in May 2024, which will be the first since COVID. Indeed, our AGM was to be held on the exact day the COVID lock-down commenced, which required apologies to be placed at the RAOB HQ in Belfast.

Given postage costs, AGM notifications will be printed in Club Review and on the Federation Facebook page, with copies distributed to Club secretaries along with the magazine.

At this stage the meeting was brought to a close with thanks being extended to the Management Committee of Harland & Wolff Welders for hosting the meeting.

Harry Beckinsale
Secretary

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New year health check

Make sure you're maximising your club's revenue

A new year is a good time for clubs to pause and reflect on their financial strategies. At the outset of 2024, it's crucial to conduct a comprehensive check of your business operations to ensure you are primed for success in maximising your finances. Whether you're a sports club, social organisation, or hobby group, understanding and optimising your financial health is paramount for sustainable growth and prosperity. By assessing your current financial standing, identifying areas for improvement, and implementing strategic adjustments, you can set a solid foundation to navigate the upcoming year with confidence. Join us in embarking on this journey of financial empowerment, as we delve into strategies and insights that will help elevate your club's financial well-being in the year ahead.

1. Update all the images on your club's website and delete any out-of-date content.
2. Check the last six months of your P&L and highlight your worst selling drinks and menu items. Change them.
3. Search for your club online on Google. Look for any out of date information and email the relevant site to get it changed/removed.
4. Negotiate prices with your drinks supplier(s) to make sure you're getting the best deal. Most clubs can reduce their drinks spend by speaking to the NI Federation of Clubs Approved Suppliers.
5. Ask Mark Rooney of MJ Utilities to visit your club to carry out a free, no obligation audit of your premises to ensure you're on the best available energy tariff. Being on the wrong tariff can be an expensive oversight, and with energy costs being as eye wateringly high as they are, this should not be overlooked.
6. Do a deep clean of the exterior of your club and car park. It will be noticed.
7. Create a group on WhatsApp for the club's members to join. Use it to engage them and post about topics they are interested in, not just as a promotional tool. You'll then have a willing audience when you ask for feedback on any changes you make, or invite



8. Create your own mystery customer feedback form, including any areas that are new, or that you have had negative feedback on, and ask someone outside the club to give you an honest view.
9. Talk to your employees - do they have any ideas of where the club could be improved? Would they like to introduce a new product to trial? The bar staff have constant contact with the club's members - this is valuable feedback.
10. Write to your local MLA or MP and invite them to come to an event or pull a pint behind your bar - if they say yes then contact your local media and get a photographer to attend too.
11. Remind your members that ultimately they need to recruit new members. No club will survive without constantly recruiting new members and your existing members are your best form of advertisement and word of mouth. Ensure you provide a generous bar voucher both to new members and to the member who recruited them.

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Motion Picture Licensing Company

Clubs may receive a letter from this company which indicates that they are required to pay for an 'Umbrella Licence'. This is an annual licence from MPLC which allows commercial premises to broadcast copyrighted material such as film DVDs to the public.

MPLC itself represents licence holders such as film studios and television production companies which produce content such as dramas or comedies. If a club showed any of this content then an MPLC licence may need to be obtained.

However, clubs which only show channels such as Sky Sports, BBC News or a music channel are unlikely to be required to obtain an MPLC licence.

If you are unsure of what licence you require please let us know and we will try to assist.

Examples of programmes that do and do not require a licence are:

Six Nations - No licence	Match of the Day - No licence
Euros - No licence	World Cup - No licence
Sky Sports - No licence	Channel 4 7pm News - MPLC Licence
Eastenders - MPLC Licence	

World Directory scam alert

Another day and another scam hits our inboxes. This time it's an old one doing the rounds again, the World Business Directory. A Google search of their name uncovers a web of different trading names going back many years, but in its current iteration, one of the names is a company called EU Business Services Ltd. They are also using the names World Business List, World Company Register and Global Business Registry.

The email subject line may have a warning suggesting that you have to take some action as it is 'pending'. You will also notice in nice bold type they tell you that "Updating is free of charge". This is, of course, to try and make you believe that this is a free service. If you sign and return this form it will cost you thousands of pounds.

Do NOT reply to them. It simply helps to confirm that your account is live and a real person is looking at emails, at which point their database will be updated and you won't be able to move for spam.

If you sign and return their form they will tie you into a legal agreement for three years which costs €995 a year. That's €2,985 for listing your business on their website. The conditions in force to cancel are almost impossible to meet, so you are warned to stay clear.



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Barrington Street Rangers Club raises over **£55,000** for the Cancer Fund for Children

In a world often overshadowed by negativity, it's moments of pure kindness and generosity that shine the brightest. This month, we're thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Barrington Street Rangers Club for the latest contribution to their ongoing fundraising efforts. With their recent donation of £2,643 to the Cancer Fund for Children, the club's overall fundraising endeavour for the charity has now surpassed an impressive £55,000.

The significance of this achievement cannot be overstated. Cancer, with its devastating impact, affects not only individuals but entire families, testing their resilience and resolve. It's in times like these that support systems, like the Cancer Fund for Children, play a pivotal role in providing much-needed assistance, guidance, and hope. By rallying behind this noble cause, the Barrington Street Rangers Club has demonstrated their compassion and solidarity with those navigating through the difficult journey of cancer.

What makes this achievement even more commendable is the dedication and hard work put forth by the members of the Barrington Street Rangers Club. Their commitment to making a positive impact is truly inspiring. Furthermore, this achievement



(L-R) Eddie Marcus, Michael Hegan, Alex Murdock and Gareth Marcus.

serves as a reminder of the immense power that lies within collective action. It's when individuals come together, driven by a shared purpose, that transformative change becomes possible.

To the members of the Barrington Street Rangers Club, may your efforts continue to inspire others to stand up and make a difference.

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Calculating annual leave entitlement for employees - including casual staff who work irregular hours?



Annual leave entitlement for employees, including those who work irregular hours, is typically calculated based on the number of hours they work.

Here's a general guide on how employers may work out annual leave entitlement:

1. Statutory Minimum Leave

The statutory minimum annual leave entitlement for full-time employees in the UK is 28 days, including public holidays. This can include both weekdays and weekends.

2. Pro-Rata Calculation

For part-time or irregular hour employees, annual leave entitlement is calculated on a pro-rata basis. This means it's based on the number of hours they work compared to full-time employees.

3. Accrual Basis

Some employers might use an accrual basis for

calculating annual leave entitlement for irregular hour workers. In this method, employees earn a certain number of hours of leave for every hour they work.

4. Contractual Agreement

Employers may have specific policies outlined in the employment contract or company handbook regarding annual leave entitlement and how it applies to irregular hour workers. It's essential for both employers and employees to be aware of these policies.

5. Calculating Hours Worked

Employers may calculate annual leave entitlement based on the actual hours worked by the employee over a certain period of time. This may involve keeping detailed records of hours worked.

6. Practical Considerations

Employers need to consider

practicalities such as how to handle overtime, shift work, and any other irregular work patterns when calculating annual leave entitlement.

7. Communication

It's crucial for employers to clearly communicate annual leave entitlement and how it's calculated to all employees, including those working irregular hours. This helps to avoid any confusion or disputes.

Employers must ensure that their methods for calculating annual leave entitlement comply with relevant employment laws and regulations, such as the Working Time Regulations 1998. Some annual leave calculations can be complex due to the type of working pattern, hours and overtime completed by employees. Consulting with HR professionals can help ensure compliance and fairness in annual leave entitlement calculations.



Ronnie McCullough,
Managing Director
Tel: 07835 255794



Nicola Curry,
HR Consultant



Alan Hall,
Health & Safety Specialist

Notice to all registered clubs

Following numerous Helpline enquiries, we are pleased to provide the following information regarding the utilisation of additional space outside the clubrooms, when a club may wish to erect a marquee etc.

We hope the following information will prove helpful to members in the application process, but if you require further guidance

or advice please feel free to contact us.

Article 15A of the Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996 allows police to authorise, in writing, a sporting club to extend the area of its premises which is registered to supply intoxicating liquor for the purpose of holding a function. The function must be likely to attract

more people than could be accommodated in the registered club premises, and the application to the police must include a plan showing the area of the proposed extension.

The extended area will be treated as part of the registered club premises for the duration of the authorisation and therefore the function will be subject

to the conditions set out in Article 30 of the Licensing Order.

No more than 6 authorisations may be granted in any year. An authorisation may exceed 1 day only in exceptional circumstances, determined by the police, and must not exceed 5 days.

Confidentiality of committee meetings

The confidentiality of committee meetings is paramount to the effective management of a club. Discussion in committee should remain confidential between committee members.

The minutes of committee meetings should merely record the motions and amendments and decisions which are agreed and, again, remain confidential. This does not mean that there are never circumstances in which the membership ought to be informed of what takes place during committee meetings.

In all clubs there are issues which are of immediate concern to all the membership. The committee may have discussed some matter referred to it by a general meeting for consideration. In such cases, the secretary should arrange for a suitable notice to be posted on the club notice board.

The general membership does not have a right to inspect the committee's minutes. However,

a club's auditors will have a right to inspect the committee's minutes in order to confirm that certain transactions have been authorised.

In addition, clubs registered under the Friendly Societies Act are obliged to permit members to examine all books, including all minute books, at any reasonable time. This is a good reason why the minutes should read like a telegram and not like a social history.

There are, however, few clubs registered as Friendly Societies. Such clubs are different from those registered under the Clubs Order.

No member of the committee is entitled to inform anyone of the proceedings and deliberations of the committee. If a club is to be served well, then it is essential that the committee should be free to conduct their affairs in a frank and open way. Surely, few people would serve on committees if they knew that their views were repeated

outside the confines of the committee room and, as is so often the case, misinterpreted by being taken out of context and made to appear contrary to the original intentions.

Committees are therefore entitled to insist on the confidentiality of their proceedings and the right of quasi privilege in the conduct of the affairs of the club while, at the same time, keeping the members informed of matters that affect them generally, but not in respect to individual members.

Proceedings in committee are not privileged, but qualified privilege may apply where the person who makes the communication has an interest or duty, legal or moral or social,

to make it to a person, or persons, having a corresponding interest or duty to receive such a communication. On the whole, the spirit of this principle has been upheld by the courts. It appears that the courts will not usually intervene in respect of domestic decisions and cannot demand explanations. If reasons are given, however, the courts reserve the right to consider their sufficiency. It may be said that normally decisions of a committee made in accordance with the rules, and made fairly, cannot be overturned.

In conclusion, therefore, what is said in committee should not be repeated outside the confines of a committee meeting, and committee minutes should remain confidential.



Q. We have a number of members who have still not paid their annual membership subscriptions. Can we bar these members from attending the Annual General Meeting and voting?

A. You are entitled to prevent members who have not paid their annual subscription from attending the AGM and voting. Most clubs collect subscriptions from the 1st January, so the committee should have had time to make sure all members were paid up to date prior to the AGM. I suggest that in future years, the committee are pro-active in dealing with members who are late with their subscription payments and apply the terms of the rules which cover such late payments.

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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Together is better

Streamlining operations: Ardoyne Working Men's Club embraces card terminal tech

Having recently taken delivery of a new card terminal system from BOI Payment Acceptance UK, Brendan Mailey, Club Chair of Ardoyne Working Men's Club said, "Implementing the card terminal was a decision we deliberated over at Ardoyne Working Men's Club. However, I can confidently say it has been a superb addition to our operations.

"Since its introduction, we've witnessed a notable increase in turnover. Customers find it convenient to simply tap for orders, eliminating the need to scurry for cash.

"Kieran guided us through the setup process meticulously,

ensuring we understood every step in simple terms. Within a couple of days, we were up and running smoothly.

"Steven, the engineer, was instrumental in acquainting us with the terminal's functionalities. Surprisingly, it requires minimal intervention from our end; transactions seamlessly settle into our account each evening. It's like having a reliable member on our team, diligently handling financial transactions.

"Overall, we're delighted with the switch. The card terminal has streamlined our operations and enhanced the customer experience. It's a testament to



embracing modern solutions that align with the evolving preferences of our members and their guests. Thanks to

this implementation, we're better positioned to meet their needs and drive further growth for our club."

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Premier League, darts, golf, and more await your members!

The range of sporting content shows its depth throughout February and March with a selection of content on offer to provide the best sporting viewing for your members.

Domestic football will continue to bring the entertainment and drama throughout the month, plus Premier League Darts, live every Thursday through to the end of May.

Your members will have a variety of different sporting fixtures to remain in venue, as they can set their sights on a Carabao Cup Final, ten golf tournaments from the DP World Tour and PGA Tour alongside action from EFL, SPFL, WSL & Formula 1.

The Premier League begins to heat up in February with some highly anticipated fixtures across the month. On Monday 26th February a London derby clash is on the cards as West Ham face Brentford at 8pm. This is just a few picks of some great fixtures available in February, visit MySkySports.com to find out when all the key matches are to plan ahead.

Across February, members will also be able to watch a host of EFL games, including matches from the Championship and the Carabao Cup Final taking place on Sunday 25th February.

The Premier League Darts began on Thursday 1st February and will last until May with action every Thursday evening.

The sporting action doesn't stop there, as golf has ten tournaments available across the month, including The Genesis Invitational (PGA Tour) from Thursday 15th and the SDC Championship from Thursday 29th, giving your members the best seat in the house to watch great sporting content throughout February on Sky Sports.

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.



A selection of sports fixtures in February & March:

- Thursday 22nd Feb.....Premier League Darts - Night 4 (Newcastle)
DP World Tour: Magical Kenya Open
PGA Tour: Mexico Open at Vidanta
LPGA: Honda LPGA Thailand
- Friday 23rd Feb.Leeds Utd v Leicester, 8pm (EFL Championship)
- Saturday 24th Feb. Hull City v West Brom, 12:30pm (EFL Champ.)
Bournemouth v Manchester City, 5:30pm (Premier League)
- Sunday 25th Feb.....Motherwell v Celtic, 12pm (Scottish Prem.)
Chelsea v Liverpool, 3pm (Carabao Cup Final)
Wolves v Brentford, 8pm (Premier League)
- Monday 26th Feb.....West Ham v Brentford, 8pm (Premier League)
- Thursday 29th Feb.....Formula 1 - Bahrain Grand Prix
Premier League Darts - Night 5 (Exeter)
DP World Tour: SDC Championship
PGA Tour: The Classic in The Palm Beaches
LPGA: HSBC Women's World Championship
- Friday 1st March..... West Brom v Coventry, 8pm (EFL Championship)
- Saturday 2nd MarchManchester City v Everton, 12pm (WSL)
Huddersfield Town v Leeds Utd, 12:30pm (EFL Champ.)
Luton v Aston Villa, 5:30pm (Premier League)
- Sunday 3rd MarchHearts v Celtic, 12pm (Scottish Premiership)
Burnley v Bournemouth, 1pm (Premier League)
Manchester City v Manchester Utd, 3.30pm (Premier League)
Leicester v Chelsea, 6pm (Women's Super League)
Formula 1 - Bahrain Grand Prix
- Monday 4th MarchSheffield Utd v Arsenal, 8pm (Premier League)

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Hothouse Flowers to headline Beamish Sessions at Court House, Bangor

Live music lovers are in for a real treat over the coming months as The Court House in Bangor hosts The Beamish Sessions, a series of intimate gigs with a stellar line-up that includes Hothouse Flowers, David Holmes, Duke Special and punk legend Jah Wobble.

Supported by leading stout brand Beamish, in partnership with Arts & Business NI, the sessions got under way at the award-winning Court House on Sunday 11th February with punk legend and former PiL bassist Jah Wobble and his band The Invaders Of The Heart.

Belfast-born David Holmes brings 'God's Waiting Room' to

the Court House on Saturday February 17th, and March will see one of Northern Ireland's finest songwriters Duke Special take to the Court House stage with three back-to-back shows from Thursday March 7th to Saturday March 9th.

The Beamish Sessions conclude on Saturday March 30th with a headline show from legendary Irish band Hothouse Flowers.

Andrew Hollywood of United Wines, the company that distributes Beamish in Northern Ireland, said, "We are delighted to support The Beamish Sessions at The Court House, which is gaining a reputation as one of Northern



Launching the Sessions at The Court House are Andrew Hollywood (left) of United Wines, and Kieran Gilmore, Director of The Court House and co-founder of local music and arts charity Open House.

Ireland's finest live music venues. With its historic charm, The Court House offers a unique and intimate setting that allows for a more personal and

immersive musical experience, giving music lovers an opportunity to be up close and personal with their favourite artists.

Carlsberg and Liverpool FC sign historic 10-Year deal



Carlsberg and Liverpool FC have extended their existing long-term partnership for another 10 years. The inking of this agreement sees the partnership reach 42 years, the longest partnership in Premier League and club history, according to the company.

The relationship was first launched in 1992, when Carlsberg became a principal partner of the club and took pride of place on the front of the Reds' shirt. During that time it witnessed some of the club's most iconic and celebrated moments on the pitch, including the cup treble in 2001, a UEFA Super Cup, and The Gerrard Final.

Louise Bach, Global Sponsorships Director, Carlsberg, said, "The partnership is deeply rooted in our shared values, and we are very excited for the next decade. We can't wait to bring this unique partnership to the millions of football fans around the world, because just like Liverpool FC, we, at Carlsberg, put the fans first."



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Unveiling the magic of Lore

An exclusive interview with Luke McCloskey



Nigel Blair, Belfast 89FM.

It gives me great pleasure to share my most recent interview with Luke McCloskey from the band LORE!

I first invited Luke to my Fun-Day Sunday show on Belfast 89, back in 2016, after hearing a recording of LORE. In my 50 years within the music business, I have to say that what I listened to would be rated as amongst the very best I have ever heard.

Luke, when asked how Lore came about, said, "Raymond and I had met in another band, and one night invited a member of the audience for an impromptu song, luckily it was Carolann, and the rest is now history."

History indeed, on their formation the band consisted of guitar, keyboard and vocals. Having gone through many changes, seeing the addition of double bass, percussion, violin, saxophone, and on occasion, a 90 piece choir.

Luke had many wonderful memories of 2023 venues played, saying, "It was a year of magical proportion, playing a host of wonderful venues, such as the Belfast Grand Opera

House with the Bellaghy Folk Choir, the Guild Hall Derry with the Dungiven Community Choir, the Mill Theatre Dublin with the Dublin Gospel Choir. We also performed at the Folk Alliance Conference in Kansas USA amongst many other great Venues.

"2024 continues in the Ard Carn Theatre with Dungiven Community Choir, Theatre Royal Waterford with Dublin Gospel Choir, Strule Arts Centre Omagh with Harmonise Choir, Galway Town Hall with Ignite Gospel Choir, and the list goes on, all iconic venues."

For me, the stage comes to life with the band and their own songs and brand of music. Carolann gave us an insight to the success of Lore, with self-penned songs such as the Anthem, a truly magical piece. Carolann said, "All our songs are written fairly collaboratively; one of us will appear with a part or piece of music, melody, and/or lyric in hand, sometimes they appear just out of the ether like a light-bulb or random thought, usually while doing something mundane. Once shared with the band, they take on a life of their own."

I asked Luke to identify the music from Lore. He said, "We were once described as sophisticated pop. Since our formation, our music has changed, especially the dynamic of our live performance, however we have kept our quintessential approach to song writing of people we know, or of a personal experience. To play with a chorus ensemble, string section or any musician is a pleasure and



gift. The honour of collaborating with a diverse range of choral arrangements has added a fresh and vibrant dynamic to our set. If and when possible, we will always welcome new and exciting performers on stage, or in studio, as collaborations can make for fantastic, unexpected results."

A very recent single written by Luke McCloskey is a masterpiece, a very personal experience of his father passing

away when Luke was only 8 years old. Titled, 'I'M RIGHT HERE', written from the perspective of Luke's father, is a song which I am certain resonates with people who have had a similar experience.

Finally, I thank Luke and all his fellow band members for giving me the experience of hearing and watching Lore find it's place in music history, and long may they continue.

Nigel

Celebrating excellence

January's award winners unveiled

Larne FC boss, Tiernan Lynch, is the NIFWA Manager of the Month for January.

The Invermen enjoyed a superb January, with a 100% record in the Sports Direct Premiership beating Crusaders, Dungannon Swifts and Newry City without conceding a goal.

Larne also knocked H&W Welders out of the Irish Cup, but their crowning glory was a 2-1 win over Glentoran in the final of the County Antrim Shield.

Lynch said, "January is all about finding consistency and building a bit of momentum. I think we've managed to do that. Winning the County Antrim Shield again was a nice added extra. In the league, there's still a long way to go with 11 games left to play. We will have good days and bad days between now and May - the important thing is you keep your head."

Cliftonville FC star Jonny Addis has won the Dream Spanish Homes Player of the Month prize for January.

Addis excelled defensively, but his month will be best remembered for his stunning double against Newry City that saw the Reds claim a vital three points.

Addis said, "I would like to thank sponsor Dream Spanish Homes and the Football Writers' Association for this award. It's been a fantastic start to the year for me, but more importantly for the team."

The January runner-up was Larne's Tomas Cosgrove, while Cliftonville's Ronan Hale took third.

Portadown FC defender Lee Chapman is the Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association's Championship Player of the Month for January.

The fullback helped the Ports to an unbeaten month in the Playr-Fit Championship with wins over Dergview and H&W Welders. The Shamrock Park club also lifted the Mid-Ulster Cup, reached the final of the BetMcLean Cup and progressed in the Irish Cup during the first month of the year.

Chapman said, "January really couldn't have gone much better for us. It's helped us build a bit of momentum after a difficult time over Christmas. The Glenavon win in the League Cup semi-final was a massive win for us, as was the cup final against Dungannon, but the league is what matters to us.

"On a personal level, I'm just enjoying my football again after a couple of difficult years. It's nice to get a prestigious award like this."



Top: NIFWA Chairman Michael Clarke presents Larne boss Tiernan Lynch with his January Manager of the Month prize.

Middle: Dream Spanish Homes Player of the Month for January is Cliftonville's Jonny Addis.

Bottom: Portadown's Lee Chapman is the January Championship Player of the Month



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