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Club Review

VOLUME 38 - Issue 4, 2025



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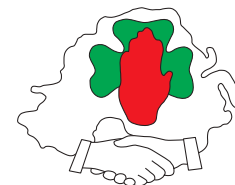
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Club Officers

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Tel:

Secretary:

Tel:

Treasurer:

Tel:

The annual membership fee is £50.00 payable to:

The Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs

c/o 42 Sandringham Court
Carrickfergus
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**For telephone queries call:
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(Please include your membership fee or completed standing order form with your application)

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Seconded by: Chairman

Date:

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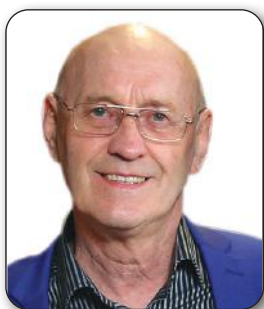
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Summer Strength

Holding the line and serving our communities



John Davidson BEM
Chairman, N.I.F.C.



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

As we enter the heart of summer, clubs across Northern Ireland once again rise to the occasion - hosting barbecues, charity events, sporting celebrations, and community gatherings that enrich local life and bring people together in ways few other venues can.

And yet, behind the good weather and full calendars, many of you are telling us the same thing: this remains a hard slog, not helped by the never-ending difficulties created by the current government!

Energy costs, and the increasing cost of supplies, insurance premiums, staffing and the relentless creep of red tape continue to weigh heavily, added to which are the changes to taxation which will move to a digital platform.

It is not that clubs are failing - far from it - but that they are being asked to carry on with very little slack and even less recognition on occasion.

We've now had over a year of a new Westminster government, and several stable years of devolved administration here in Northern Ireland. While political headlines may have moved on, the day-to-day needs of the hospitality and club sector remain unmet. One cannot and indeed should not ignore the tremendous value of our volunteer-led club sector who do not have the time and resources to chase every grant window, yet they still deliver warm spaces and vital services which bring people of all ages together, support good causes, and offer community connection in an increasingly fragmented world. For many, they are the only affordable social option in their area - a role more important now than ever.

At the Federation, we continue to amplify your voice. Our advisory lines remain busy - proof that clubs trust us to offer support that is timely, informed, and realistic. We are engaging with departments at both Stormont and Westminster to highlight the specific needs of our sector, especially those issues unique to private member clubs, which are often overlooked in broader hospitality policy.

We also encourage/urge all clubs to make use of the Federation's Approved Suppliers wherever possible. These businesses are familiar with the club environment and are committed to offering competitive rates and a reliable service. By supporting those who

support us, clubs not only gain trusted suppliers but also help sustain a network of partnerships that strengthens the sector as a whole.

This summer, we urge clubs to focus on what they do best - opening their doors, building connections, and reminding their communities why they matter. Let's also take the time to thank our volunteers, committees, and stewards who keep things going quietly and capably all year round.

We're proud to stand alongside you.

John Davidson BEM - Chairman Harry Beckinsale BEM - Secretary

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Hosted by the RAOB HQ Club, Belfast, on Saturday 24th May 2025

Commencing at the delayed time of 10.30am, a number of apologies received over the previous two days were reflected in a reduced attendance, also due in part to the bank holiday weekend.

The Chairman asked members to be upstanding for a minute's silence in respect of past members.

The informative content of the meeting highlighted the many difficulties that respective management committees face in the running of a modern-day registered club.

Human Resources issues focused on the importance of ensuring appropriate protection

through the club's insurance policy, and the essential process of following their advice from the outset of any employment issue. The challenges faced by employers in dealing with employment matters were explained, including the necessity, in some cases, of having more than one source of protection.

At this point, Dermot Rollins of Rollins Club Insurance was invited to provide further detail on the protection offered through the Rollins Club Insurance policy. Dermot has been at the forefront of registered club insurance for many years - indeed, I can vividly recall a time when they

were the only company in a position to provide cover for our members.

The Secretary encouraged those present, who may be insured by other providers, to check whether their club policy includes the necessary employment protection cover.

Trustees remain a regular topic throughout the year, and the Chairman provided an overview of this important issue. Quite often, trustees pass away and the club fails to replace the deceased member. The process of nominating and appointing a trustee requires engaging a solicitor and should be actioned as soon as possible.

The Federation accountant, Lawrence Shearer, was introduced to present the financial report, which was covered in detail. Following the report, additional accountancy-related questions - previously raised via the Secretary's helpline - were addressed. These included the level of accountancy required in relation to various turnover thresholds.

Lawrence Shearer addressed this with the following information:

For a Northern Ireland registered club with a turnover between £100,000 and £200,000, it is not legally required to have an accountant for all financial matters,

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according to the Registration of Clubs (Accounts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022. However, some clubs may still choose to engage an accountant due to the various benefits it may bring.

A more detailed explanation:

• Legal Requirements:

The Registration of Clubs (Accounts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022 outline the accounting requirements for clubs. For clubs with a turnover between £100,000 and £300,000, the regulations may allow for a simplified financial examination.

Children's certificates were also highlighted, along with the detail regarding clubs with a sports registration, which permits young people to be on the premises of a sports club - accompanied by a guardian, parent or coach - until 11.00pm between May and September, with an extension to 11.30pm when food is being provided. Children's certificates are, of course, no longer required, with the restriction on advertising similarly removed.

It was explained that the club's constitution or rulebook is the essential guide to how the club is administered. Furthermore, it was highlighted that when a rule is changed, or a committee member replaced, it is a legal requirement to notify both the Clerk of the Court and the local Sub-Divisional Commander.



Dermot Rollins, Rollins Club Insurance, pictured with Federation Chairman, John Davidson.

The Secretary provided an overview of the increasing financial costs of distributing Club Review, acknowledging the important role played by Executive Committee members in personally delivering the magazine to member clubs in their areas. With postal costs set to increase yet again, this assistance is more vital than ever.

It was important to highlight the support provided by our suppliers, without which the Federation would be greatly disadvantaged. While it is right to acknowledge the full list of those who support us, it is equally important to note those who do not.

However, the Chairman expressed his desire to contact one such company at a higher level, given its importance as both a local and international producer.

The Secretary noted the support provided by the companies who do stand with us, and the voluntary aspect of the Federation, which allows us to offer a wide range of services to members - including the successful 24/7 helpline facility.

The Secretary also reflected on the contribution registered clubs make to the charity sector - now more important than ever in the absence of meaningful government support. Throughout the year, our members support a wide range of local and national charities.

The representative of Royal Hillsborough Social Club spoke to congratulate and thank the Federation for the support provided throughout the year.

This brought proceedings to a close for another year, with thanks expressed to the RAOB HQ Club for hosting the meeting and for the refreshments provided.



Representatives from the Royal Hillsborough Social Club.



Representatives from the Betts Club, Bangor.



Above:
Representatives
from Whitehouse
Workingmen's Club,
Newtownabbey.

Right:
Federation Secretary,
Harry Beckinsale,
with Paul Creevy,
Ballymena Golf
Club.



Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Hosted by the H&W Welders FSC, Belfast, on 11th June 2025

The Secretary read the minutes of the April meeting held in St Matthew's Social Club, which were proposed by Joe Patterson and seconded by Tommy McMinn as a true record.

David Larmour provided a positive update on his recent health situation, which was warmly received.

Continuing, the Chairman, John Davidson, provided details on the recent UK Supreme Court ruling concerning a transgender case.

An extensive debate followed, with an examination of the various issues that could

potentially impact our members, their respective committees, and guests alike. While the UK Supreme Court decision has been delivered, there remain other legal considerations to take into account.

It was suggested that the Federation's solicitor be contacted for further guidance. However, in the absence of a decision by the Stormont Assembly and clarification from the Equality Commission, there is limited scope for progression at this time.

The Secretary shared details of a generous offer of hospitality

for the Executive Committee from Patrick Morgan of Bushmills/Proximo, which was appreciated by the Chairman.

The Executive Committee welcomed the recent announcement that winter fuel payments will recommence - welcome news for many within the club sector.

The Secretary confirmed he is preparing all administrative and financial details in digital format, to help streamline preparations for forthcoming AGMs. This is considered a sensible approach, particularly in view of the requirement

for accounts to be submitted online from 2026.

A financial report was presented covering April and May, with accompanying bank statements, resulting in the statement being accepted as a true record.

The meeting was then brought to a close, with thanks extended to Harland and Wolff Welders FSC for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality provided.

*Harry Beckinsale B.E.M.
Secretary*



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Dealing with the Quiet Storm

Managing informal conflict & staff behaviour



In today's fast-paced and often tight-knit working environments, the most damaging conflicts rarely erupt with fireworks. Instead, they simmer under the surface - whispered frustrations, unspoken resentments, passive behaviours, or deteriorating team morale. Left unaddressed, these seemingly minor issues can result in higher turnover, reduced performance, and formal grievances that could have been avoided.

For employers, where teams tend to be close and resources tight, informal conflict management is not just a 'nice to have' - it's a critical leadership skill.

What Is Informal Conflict?

Informal conflict includes:

- Eye-rolling in meetings
- Staff refusing to help certain colleagues
- Mood swings or withdrawal
- Repeated lateness, or "just doing the minimum"
- Subtle undermining of decisions or team leaders

These behaviours might not breach policies outright, but they often signal deeper interpersonal issues. And they don't resolve themselves - they spread.

Why Informal Issues Matter More Than Ever

In a world shaped by hybrid working, staff shortages, and mental health concerns, tolerance for toxic behaviour is low - and expectations of fair treatment are high.

One unresolved personality clash can now lead to:

- An employee going off sick with stress

- A formal grievance or tribunal claim
- Loss of a valuable team member due to poor morale

Common Triggers

Tensions may arise from:

- Perceived favouritism in rotas or promotions
- Long-standing staff with "their way" of doing things clashing with new hires
- Personal relationships overlapping with professional boundaries
- Misuse of group chats or social media spillover into work

Five Practical Ways to Manage Informal Conflict Early

1. Set Clear Standards

Don't wait for problems to arise. Clarify expected behaviours around respect, communication, and teamwork - even if they seem like common sense. Reinforce them in inductions, staff handbooks, and team meetings.

2. Coach, Don't Confront

When issues arise, have a calm 1-to-1 conversation. Avoid accusations. Try:

"I've noticed some tension lately and wanted to check how you're feeling at work - is everything okay?"

This invites dialogue rather than defence.

3. Use "Cup of Tea" Chats

Managers should check in informally - not just about tasks, but team dynamics. A quick "How's everything going with the team?" can reveal brewing issues before they explode.

4. Set Boundaries Around WhatsApp

Many employers rely on group chats. But if unmanaged, they become breeding grounds for

exclusion, gossip, or unprofessional language. Set rules: no out-of-hours demands, no screenshots, no moaning about colleagues.

5. Document Key Conversations

Even informal chats should be lightly documented - date, who was present, what was discussed. This protects both parties if formal action is needed later.

When to Formalise

If behaviour doesn't improve after informal chats - or if the issue involves bullying, harassment, or potential discrimination - it's time to initiate your formal disciplinary or grievance process.

Always follow a fair procedure and give staff the chance to respond - employment tribunals are robust in expecting basic fairness.

Summary

To manage conflict well you need leadership that listens, acts early, and sets the tone. The earlier you step in, the less damage is done. In a work environment where every team member matters, protecting morale is protecting your business.



Ronnie McCullough
Managing Director
Tel: 07835 255794



Nicola Curry,
HR Consultant



Alan Hall,
Health & Safety Specialist

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Q. If an officer or committee member is in receipt of an honorarium, but is not an employee, will they be affected by the requirement to make pension contributions for an employee?

A. For the purposes of the pension regulations, persons in receipt of an honorarium will not be required to be enrolled into the system.

This is because persons receiving honorariums

are not considered to be employees of the club and the new regulations only apply to employees. There is sometimes confusion over this point because persons in receipt of honorariums are put through the PAYE system. The reason that persons who receive an honorarium are put through the PAYE system is simply because, whilst the honorarium does not itself bestow employment rights or obligations, the voluntary payment does attract taxation. An honorarium is, of course, a voluntary payment for a voluntary service which is not considered the same as employment and does not bestow employment rights onto the recipient.

Q. When the club has a private event we always let the club members use part of the club. A committee member is saying that this is not correct

that during a private event club members should not be allowed to use the club. Who is correct?

A. From a legal point of view, both scenarios presented are lawful.

It is therefore for the committee to decide how private functions are managed. You can hold private functions and also allow members to use the club or a specific part of the club. Or you can hold a private function and close the club entirely to members.

It may be that these decisions have to be taken on a case-by-case basis since some private hire events may lend themselves to allowing members to use the club whilst other private hire events may require exclusive use of the club with members not able to use the club for the duration of the function.

I suggest this topic of discussion is put on the agenda of the next committee meeting.

Q. Can you tell me, if someone is off sick, are they allowed to carry their holiday forward? We have always said they cannot, but our steward disagrees.

A. There was an EU case (Stringer v HM Revenue & Customs) which declared that any employee who has accrued holiday time but has been unable to take it due to sickness shall be allowed to take it during the first period back at work. This means that employees who cannot take holiday due to illness will be able to carry it forward and should take it as soon as possible upon their return to work.

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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Do You Need an MPLC 'Umbrella' Licence

We continue to receive reports of clubs being contacted by the Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC), often by letter, informing them that they may need to obtain an Umbrella Licence. Understandably, this can cause confusion and concern, particularly for volunteer-led clubs who are unsure about their legal obligations.

To clarify: the Umbrella Licence is an annual licence administered by MPLC that allows commercial or public premises - including private members' clubs - to lawfully show copyrighted audiovisual content to their members or guests. This applies regardless of whether the content is shown from a DVD, downloaded file, or broadcast on television.

MPLC represents a wide range of film studios and television producers - particularly those involved in creating dramas, comedies, and movies. Common examples of content that would fall under their licensing remit include soap operas, sitcoms, feature films, and other scripted entertainment. If a club shows this kind of material - whether on a television screen in the lounge or via a DVD during a social evening - an MPLC licence may be required.

However, there is often a misunderstanding about what is and is not covered. Clubs that only show live sport, rolling news channels, or music channels are generally not required to obtain an MPLC licence. For example, showing Sky Sports, TNT Sports, or BBC News in the bar area typically does not fall under MPLC's scope, as those channels and their content are already licensed in other ways.

It's important to assess what you're actually showing.

If your club regularly shows films (including those brought in by members or on DVD), or content like EastEnders, Coronation Street, or The Great British Bake Off, then you may need to seek a licence. If you're unsure, keeping a record of what's being shown - and how - is a helpful step toward determining your position.

We encourage our members to get in touch via the Helplines if an MPLC letter has been received and are uncertain about what licensing arrangements are necessary. That being said, MPLC state their license is for the 'PUBLIC VIEWING' of content they represent, whereas our registered clubs are private and not open to the public like a night club or other venue types. Therefore, we continue to protest the need for this license in addition to others which clubs are required to hold.

Below is a simple guide to help you understand which types of content are likely to require a licence:

Programme / Channel	MPLC Licence Required?
Match of the Day	No
FIFA World Cup (live).....	No
Sky Sports	No
Channel 4 News (7pm).....	Yes
EastEnders	Yes
Coronation Street	Yes

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Your Club's Duty of Care with Waste

Clubs and small businesses in Northern Ireland are legally required to manage waste responsibly. Under the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, anyone who produces, carries or disposes of waste has a duty of care to ensure it is managed, stored, transferred and disposed of lawfully.

This applies fully to clubs registered under The Registration of Clubs (Northern Ireland) Order 1996. These clubs - including private member sports and social clubs - are not exempt from environmental waste regulations, and are treated the same as any other business. Whether your club runs a bar, function room, catering facilities or outdoor space, you are considered a waste producer and must comply with all relevant laws.

Even if your club uses a private waste contractor, you remain legally responsible for ensuring your waste is handled properly. Failure to comply can result in prosecution, fines, and significant reputational damage.

What is your duty of care?

As a waste producer, your club must:

- Prevent illegal or harmful disposal of waste
- Only transfer waste to authorised people or facilities
- Provide accurate descriptions of the waste being transferred
- Keep proper records of each waste transfer

This duty applies to all types of waste: from everyday materials like glass and cardboard to hazardous waste such as old paint, used batteries, fluorescent tubes or cleaning chemicals.

Hazardous waste is subject to additional controls under the Hazardous Waste Regulations (NI) 2005.

Waste transfer and consignment notes

Every time your club transfers waste to someone else, you must complete the proper documentation:

For non-hazardous waste: Complete a Waste Transfer Note (WTN) - this must include details of:

- The waste (type and quantity)
- The parties involved
- The date and location of transfer

Keep copies for at least two years. These can be paper or digital records, but must be available for inspection by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) on request.

For hazardous waste:

Use a Hazardous Waste Consignment Note issued by NIEA. These notes follow the waste from your premises to final disposal and must be retained for three years.

Example: If your club is disposing of leftover paint from maintenance works, you'll need to complete a hazardous consignment note, even if you're hiring a contractor to collect it.

Authorised carriers only

It is a criminal offence to pass waste to someone who isn't legally authorised. Your club must check that:

- The waste carrier is registered with NIEA
- The facility receiving the waste (landfill, recycler, etc.) holds a valid waste management licence or exemption

You can verify both using public registers available on the DAERA or NIEA websites. Do not rely on verbal assurances - always ask for documentation or search the register yourself.

Where does your waste go?

Clubs should always know the end destination of their waste. It is not enough to assume your waste collector is disposing of it legally - if they dump it illegally, your club could still be held responsible.

Ask:

- Where is this waste going?
- Is the site licensed to accept it?
- Can I see the paperwork?

In 2023 alone, over 500 illegal waste sites were shut down in the UK, and landfill tax fraud remains a growing problem, often involving unregulated carriers and organised crime. Clubs should remain vigilant.

Penalties for non-compliance

Clubs that breach waste laws can face:

- Fines of up to £50,000
- Imprisonment
- Orders to clean up illegally dumped waste
- Damage to the club's reputation or loss of members' trust

Directors, committee members or officers of a club can also be personally liable if found negligent.

Checklist for clubs

1. Check authorisation:

Use only registered waste carriers and licensed facilities. Verify credentials on the NIEA public register.

2. Use Waste Transfer Notes:

Complete and retain a WTN for each non-hazardous waste

transfer. Keep for at least 2 years.

3. Hazardous waste needs consignment notes: If disposing of hazardous materials, complete the correct paperwork and retain it for at least 3 years.

4. Know the waste destination:

Ensure you know where your waste is going and that it's a legal, authorised site.

5. Remember your club's Duty of Care: Even if you use contractors, the legal responsibility remains with the club.

Further guidance

Clubs registered under The Registration of Clubs (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 are fully subject to these requirements - licensing status does not create any exemption from waste laws. DAERA and NIEA publish official guidance, including codes of practice, public registers and waste classifications.

To stay compliant and avoid costly mistakes, visit:

- www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/waste-duty-care-responsibilities
- www.nidirect.gov.uk

By managing waste correctly, clubs protect their members, their finances and the wider environment. Staying compliant is not just a legal obligation - it's part of being a responsible, respected community organisation.



Summer of Sport

It's live action all the way with Sky



England's cricketers take on India in five Test matches this summer, while England's women face India in a T20 and ODI series. There's big-hitting T20 cricket from the Vitality Blast too, plus all the drama from The Hundred, which gets underway in August.

Formula 1 fans have four race weekends to enjoy, including the iconic British Grand Prix.

On the oche, the stars of darts go toe-to-toe in the World Matchplay in Blackpool. Luke Humphries is the defending champion after beating Michael van Gerwen in a thrilling final last year.

July means it's time for the final golf Major of the season
The Open Championship at Royal Portrush. Xander Schauffele shot nine under to claim the Claret Jug last year. There are three women's Major tournaments too - the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, the Amundi Evian Championship and the AIG Women's Open.

This is also a massive month for live rugby union, with full coverage of the British & Irish Lions' tour of Australia, while England face Argentina in two Tests.

After all that, August sees the start of the 2025-26 football season, and we're bringing you the biggest live games from the Championship, EFL Leagues 1 and 2, and the Scottish Premiership. There's also action from the Premier League Summer Series.

Of course, that's not all. There's a feast of live golf, with coverage from the DP World Tour, PGA Tour, LPGA Tour and the LET. There's also the climax of the Netball Super League, ATP and WTA 1000 tennis, Super League rugby and much more.



Picture courtesy of Getty Images



July & August Highlights

- Wed. 2nd July..... International cricket - England v India (2nd Test)
- Thu. 3rd July..... LET golf - KPMG Women's Irish Open
- Sat. 5th July..... Rugby Union - Argentina v England - 8.40pm
- Sun. 6th July..... Formula 1 - British Grand Prix
- Wed. 9th July..... Rugby Union - Brumbies v British & Irish Lions - 11am
- Thu. 10th July..... International cricket - England v India (3rd Test)
Women's golf Major - Amundi Evian Championship
- Sat. 12th July..... International Rugby Union: Invitational Australia & New Zealand v British & Irish Lions - 11am
- Thu. 17th July..... Golf Major - The Open Championship
- Sat. 19th July..... Darts - World Matchplay
Int. Rugby Union - Australia v British & Irish Lions (1st Test) - 11am
- Wed. 23rd July..... International cricket - England v India (4th Test)
- Sat. 26th July..... Int. Rugby Union - Australia v British & Irish Lions (2nd Test) - 11am
- Sun. 27th July..... Formula 1 - Belgian Grand Prix
Darts - Men's and Women's World Matchplay Finals

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For further details contact:

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Duties of Club Officials

Many Clubs will have recently held their AGMs, resulting in newly elected committee members and officers. We hope this guide supports anyone taking on such a role.

The President: The President should actively identify himself with the club and its activities and not act merely as a figurehead. He presides ex officio over all meetings other than committee meetings.

The Chairman: The Chairman presides ex officio over committee meetings and, in the President's absence, over club meetings. He should be familiar with the club's rules and meeting procedures. At all times, he must uphold the dignity of his office and the club's reputation, leading by example. Authority should be exercised calmly and tactfully when necessary. The Chairman should work closely with the Secretary to ensure all legal and club obligations are fulfilled.

The Treasurer: The Treasurer ensures that all money - whether received by himself, the Secretary, steward, or others - is properly banked. He is responsible for paying club debts as directed by the committee and for ensuring cheques are signed by himself and a Finance Committee member, then countersigned by the Secretary. At each committee meeting, or when requested, he must produce the Paying-in Book, Bank Statement, and Daily Takings Book.

The Secretary: The Secretary must keep all club documents properly filed and in order. He is to summon and attend meetings and take minutes. His duties include:

- Maintaining an up-to-date register of members and subscription records
- Displaying candidate names, addresses, and occupations as per club rules
- Issuing default notices and removing names of those in arrears
- Posting notices for General and Special General Meetings
- Verifying nominations for office and rejecting any that are invalid
- Complying with the Licensing Act 2003
- Meeting all NI and Statutory Sick Pay requirements and ensuring employee cover
- Ensuring the club is insured for liability, fire, and burglary

The Secretary is a senior position and it's important to recognise the responsibility which falls upon them. For instance, where a club rule is changed or amended and/or if there is a change in the committee, then the Secretary is required to notify the Clerk of the Petty Sessions and the Sub-Divisional Commander of the area in which they are located within 14 days.

The Committee: Committee members should attend meetings regularly. Acting in a quasi-judicial capacity, and subject to club rules, they may suspend or expel members - provided the member is afforded a meeting, followed by the right to appeal.

The committee is responsible for appointing and managing employees. Finally, it is good practice to assist the Treasurer and Secretary by checking records, ensuring they are accurate. Committee members should observe club rules, setting an example for the wider membership.

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2025 Foyle Cup Officially Launched

The 2025 O'Neills Foyle Cup, set to take place from July 21st to 26th, was officially launched at a special event hosted at St Joseph's School, Westway, L/Derry - a fitting venue given the school's recent triumph in the Northern Ireland Under-18 Schools' Cup.

The school plays a vital role in grassroots football, also hosting the Manchester United Foundation and the Stephen Gerard 17-19 Academy, delivered in partnership with Derry City F.C. Speaking at the event, Principal, Mrs Ciara Deane, said it was a privilege to support the Derry & District Youth FA. "The Foyle Cup showcases the power of sport to inspire, unite, and develop confidence in young people from all backgrounds," she said.

Diolain Ward, representing the Foyle Cup committee, thanked all who attended the launch, with special recognition to key sponsors.

He praised the scale and spirit of the competition, which this year will welcome over 450 teams from across Ireland, the UK, Europe and North America - making it one of the largest youth football tournaments in the western world. "The Foyle Cup is about more than results - it's about lifelong memories, friendships, and the joy of the game," he added.

He also highlighted the tournament's positive economic and cultural impact on the North West region, with local businesses, host



Principal, Mrs Ciara Deane, pictured with John Murphy, O'Neills (sponsors), Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Ciaran McQuillan, and Deputy Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Darren Guy.

families and volunteers all playing an essential role in welcoming visiting teams.

A warm word of thanks was also extended to Rory Holden, who joined the event during his time at home. "We wish

Rory every success in the future," Ward concluded.

Fixtures are now available to view at www.foylecup.com, where match updates and tournament news will also be posted throughout the week.

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Sporting Memories - Peter McParland

The last of our heroes from a famous era

Peter McParland (25th April 1934 - 4th May 2025) was a Northern Irish footballer whose career with Aston Villa and the Northern Ireland national team left a lasting legacy.

Born in Newry, McParland came to prominence at Villa Park after joining from Dundalk in 1952.

Over a near-decade with Aston Villa (1952-62), he scored an impressive 121 goals in 341 appearances, becoming a fan favourite for his aerial power and goal-scoring instinct. He was also the last surviving member of Villa's historic 1957 FA Cup-winning team.

Rise at Aston Villa

At Villa, McParland quickly established himself as a force on the left wing and at centre-forward. Primarily a winger, he was equally at home through the middle and widely regarded as one of the era's finest headers of the ball.

He helped Villa capture the Second Division title in 1959-60, securing promotion back to the top flight. His fine heading ability and powerful left foot made him feared by defenders and adored by fans.

FA Cup Glory (1957)

McParland is best remembered at Villa for his starring role in the 1957 FA Cup final. In that historic match at Wembley he scored both of Villa's goals in a 2-1 win over Manchester United - the last time the club lifted the trophy. Those two goals etched his name into club folklore.

He later also scored the extra-time winner in the inaugural League Cup final in 1961 (a 3-2 victory over Rotherham United), becoming the first player ever to score in the finals of both major English cup competitions.

World Cup Heroics (1958)

McParland was also a hero for Northern Ireland. He earned 34 caps and scored 10 goals for his country, including a record-breaking five goals in the 1958 FIFA World Cup.

His strikes - one against Argentina, two versus West Germany and two versus Czechoslovakia - helped Northern Ireland reach the quarter-finals in Sweden. He remains Northern Ireland's highest scorer at World Cup finals, a feat that, quite rightly, earned him legendary status.

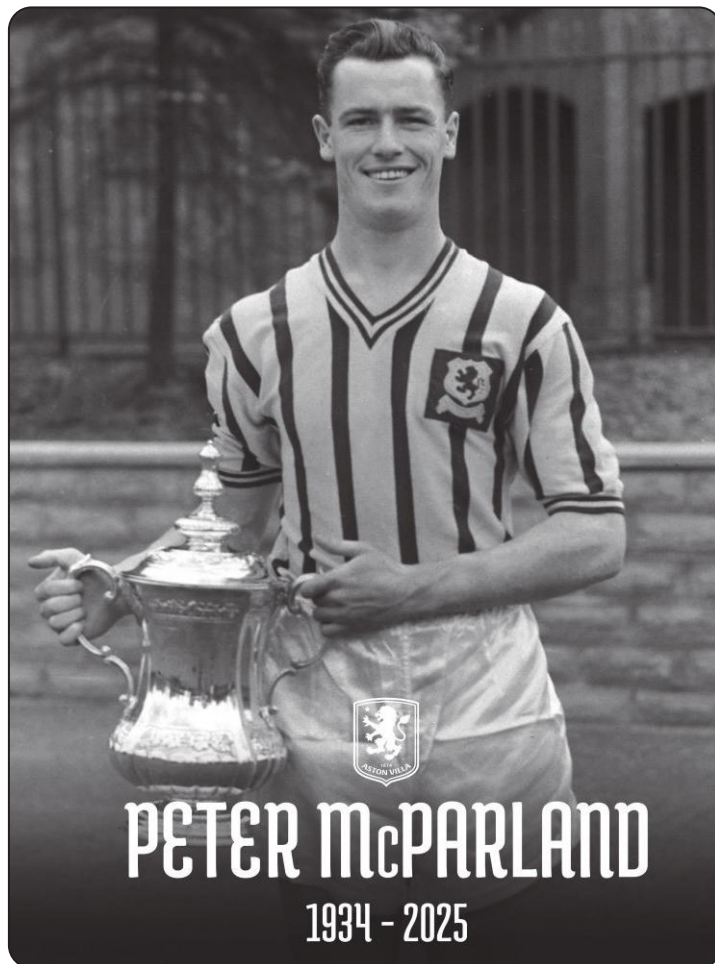
Later Career

and Glentoran Double

After leaving Villa in 1962, McParland had spells with Wolverhampton Wanderers, Plymouth Argyle and Worcester City in England. He even played abroad in Canada and the United States (with Toronto Inter-Roma and Atlanta Chiefs) before returning home.

In 1968 he took over as player-manager of Glentoran in Belfast. In his debut season he scored 10 goals in 18 games and led Glentoran to a memorable double, winning both the Irish League title and City Cup in 1969-70.

He retired from playing in 1971, but that 1969-70 league and cup double as player-



manager cemented his status as a club legend.

Legacy and Tributes

Tributes poured in when Peter passed away on 4th May this year, aged 91.

Aston Villa said it was "profoundly saddened" to lose McParland, noting he was "the last surviving member of the club's 1957 FA Cup-winning team".

The Irish FA hailed him as "the last of our heroes from that famous era", recalling his place in Northern Ireland's golden age.

Glentoran FC extended its "heartfelt condolences" and remembered him as "a true great of the game".

Peter McParland's legacy lives on in the memories of Villa fans and Irish football supporters. His feats at Wembley and in Sweden defined the most celebrated years of his career. As clubs and country mourn him, they also celebrate a player whose skill and fighting spirit brought joy to generations: the crowd remembers the goals, and his family and friends will remember a "true great of the game".



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2025 NIFL Award Winners

It was a historic night on 12th April at the Titanic Belfast, as the inaugural NIFL Football Awards played out to a packed crowd.

The prestigious black-tie event celebrated the outstanding contributions, achievements, and excellence of clubs, players, and individuals throughout Irish League football.

Hosted by Helen Evans and Curtis McCosh, the event celebrated the talent, dedication, and passion that are integral to the success of the league. This year's winners and nominees not only highlight on the pitch talent but also the diverse ways in which football positively impacts communities, drives innovation, and enhances the experience across the country.



Championship Player of the Year: Ben Arthurs, Bangor FC



Goal of the Season: Jordan Jenkins (Glentoran) v Cliftonville August '24



Female Contribution to Professional Football in NI: Louise Thompson, Referee



Manager of the Year: Rodney McAree, Dungannon Swifts



Premiership Player of the Year: Joel Cooper, Linfield FC (now at Coleraine FC)



Lifetime Contribution Award: David Jeffrey MBE



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