

NICS Social Club – Chairman’s Report for 2019 Year

Introduction

The Chairman's Report provides a brief summary of the main activities undertaken in the Social Club in the course of the 2019 calendar year and looks forward to the remainder of the 2020 year.

Overview

Over the past year the Whistles bar and restaurant has continued to provide members with comfortable surroundings in which to enjoy a drink whilst watching televised sporting events, or to dine whether for breakfast, lunch or an evening meal. There have been several major sporting events at the Pavilion during the year and the Social Club has benefitted from the provision of hospitality for the events’ competitors, officials, supporters and visitors. The Social Club expanded its activities by providing a Coffee Pod for users of the Mo Mowlem Play Park which reopened in June 2019 following a major refurbishment.

Financial Position

The two main income streams for the Social Club have been bar sales and catering sales but added to that this year has been income from the Coffee Pod which has proved to be very successful. The bar sales have increased to £230k, which is a rise of 7% on last year’s figures and catering sales, which includes the Coffee Pod sales, also has increased to £305k. The catering sales increase is significantly up on last year, with the Coffee Pod making an important contribution to the increase. The stronger trading position has meant that the Social Club has been able to post a modest surplus of £28k for the year.

Bar and catering

The Whistles bar and restaurant continued to deliver a high standard of service and over the course of the year provided 9,172 lunch and dinner covers and an additional 1,141 Christmas dinners. The Steak Nights have proved to be popular and offer a great meal at a very reasonable price and there were a number of other special catering occasions around calendar events, for example, Mother’s Day and Easter. The Pavilion also hosted 349 events booked by NICS government departments and agencies, other public bodies and charity organisations and, in addition, there were 351 sporting and

NICS Social Club – Chairman’s Report for 2019 Year

recreational dinners and social events, and a further 121 members’ social events.

Operations

During the year there has been several changes to staffing in the bar and restaurant but the new staff have integrated well to continue to provide a friendly and efficient service to all members and their guests. The success of the bar and catering provision has allowed the Social Club to hold bar prices again this year. Although Social Club membership fell in recent years, mainly because of the fall in Civil Service staffing numbers, there were signs that membership is now increasing again and, at the end of the year, there were 1089 Social Club members.

Special Events

Cricket - 2019

Northern Knights vs Ireland Wolves
Northern Knights vs North West
Northern Knights vs Leinster Lightning
Ireland vs Afghanistan (2 days)
Ireland vs Zimbabwe (3 days)
NCU Women’s Challenge Cup Final
CI All Ireland Club T20 Finals

Hockey - 2019

Ireland vs Scotland Senior Men’s
U16&U18 Boys Interprovincial
Hockey Finals Christmas

Charity Events - 2019

Byte Night
PWc Charity Football Tournament
McDonald Football Tournament
Run in the Dark
Race for Life

Football - 2019

IFA Senior Men’s Team Training

NICS Social Club – Chairman’s Report for 2019 Year

These sporting events provided the Social Club with an opportunity to provide hospitality in the bar and restaurant for the competitors, officials and spectators and is a much needed source of income.

Outlook

The Social Club has had a successful year and hopefully this will continue into the 2020 year. There are a number of international cricket matches to be held during the year and Steak Nights will continue along with other special catering events to take place. Of course, the support of members is needed is the Social Club is to continue on its successful path.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Reilly
Chairman
NICS Social Club