

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

International events hosted at The Pavilion, Stormont, not only showcases Northern Ireland as a leader in sport and leisure but also help stimulate the sports economy.

NICSSA continue to make a significant contribution to local and wider community objectives by hosting a diverse range of high profile international and community events at The Pavilion, Stormont.



Ireland vs. Australia International Cricket

The prestigious Ireland vs. Australia International Cricket was hosted at The Pavilion, Stormont on 23rd June 2012. The event brought together members from all sections of the community and attracted an international audience reaching a total of 5000 spectators. This event received massive media coverage through being featured on Sky Sports.



The European Pipe Band Championships

The World Pipe Band Championships were successfully hosted at Stormont for the third time on 28th July 2012. This event attracted 10,000 competitors and spectators across Europe, as well as obtaining international media coverage.

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NICSSA Health and Wellbeing

As part of its health promotion strategy NICSSA provide health and wellbeing education and training to improve employee health, wellbeing, and engagement. In this context the strategy operates within the NICS, wider public sector and indeed the private sector.



Health Works

With regard to health and wellbeing, we have delivered 135 Health Works courses to the NICS and to a number of other public and private sector clients including DARD (Department of Agricultural Development), Coca Cola Bottlers (Dublin and Lisburn), BE Aerospace (Kilkeel), Price Waterhouse Coopers (Dungannon and Belfast), Labour Relations Agency, NIE and Schrader Electronics (Antrim and Carrickfergus). We also continued our programme in partnership with NICS OHS by delivering a further five 'Your Life Your Health' courses to young civil servants.



NICS WELL

In addition, NICSSA deliver the NICS WELL programme, which incorporates support, education and information on a wide range of health and wellbeing issues and will be exclusively available to all NICS staff. The initiative which was launched in September, will help to meet one of the key objectives of the NICS People Strategy for April 2009 – March 2013 to improve employee health, wellbeing, and engagement in a way which is consistent with the wider aims of the Programme for Government, while providing a range of benefits to both the organisation and its employees.

Media Partnership

All of NICSSA's activities are supported by a successful media partnership with both the Daily Mirror and Citybeat which makes a significant contribution to the development of recreational and competitive sport in Northern Ireland.

This partnership not only ensures that recreational and competitive sporting activities and charity events will receive extensive media coverage but also contributes to the wider government Corporate and Social Responsibility objectives to promote interest and participation in sport within Northern Ireland.



OUR BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS 2012



Welcome to the first issue of **Our business is your business - a regular newsletter aimed at making you aware of and keeping you up to date with the facilities that we, in the Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association (NICSSA) provide and how we make a positive contribution to the wider community.**

NICSSA was formed in 1950. We operate across the region from our headquarters on the Stormont Estate under licence from the Department of Finance and Personnel. Over the past 60 years we have grown from catering for a small number of sports with a small team of staff and a modest turnover, to being a multiple sports, health and wellbeing and leisure business with 42 staff and a turnover of just under £2 million.

We remain at heart a voluntary, non-profit making organisation providing a wide range of services and facilities to

our core membership of 11,000, helping and encouraging them to participate in sport and other forms of physical activity and promoting a healthy lifestyle. However, we have for many years also placed a strong emphasis on sharing our facilities with the local community for similar reasons - contributing to the principles of developing sport for all ages and levels of ability, hosting a wide range of community and sports governing bodies from grassroots to international level, supporting cross-community work, supporting local charities and their fund-raising activity, helping to improve individual and corporate health and wellbeing in the local population and playing our part in the promotion of Northern Ireland as an international venue for sport and cultural events.

Through this newsletter we want to share our work and success with you in each of these areas in a way that we hope you will find useful and helpful. Please feel free to respond on any issue that interests, pleases or amuses you - your feedback and indeed any contributions that you make will be very much appreciated.



Charity Support

NICSSA makes a significant contribution to the work of local and national charities by improving awareness and raising much needed funds.

In 2012 NICSSA adopted Age N.I. as their sponsored charity of the year. As part of the relationship NICS staff and sports clubs across Northern Ireland have the opportunity to facilitate and indeed participate in fundraising events including raffles, quizzes & sporting and leisure activities to support the charity.

Alongside this, NICSSA raised an estimate of £50,000 directly through its members for a range of local charities.



In addition, through the co-ordination of events at The Pavilion, Stormont NICSSA supported fundraising of over £400K through the Marie Curie Walk Ten, Tesco Great School Run, Race for Life and the Family Fun Day in aid of Children in Need which involved over 30,000 people.



Disability Sport

NICSSA support members of the disabled community to enjoy, engage and compete in sport and celebrate their achievements.

The Cheetahs Special Olympics Football Club, which was set-up during 2011 provides young people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and compete in football. The clubs training session is on Monday evenings at PlayBall and attracts participants from local special schools, Tor Bank and Longstone. In addition, volunteer coaches are developed through the programme, with all club coaches completing a Disability Football Award at the Hanwood Centre at the end of March.

Through PlayBall NICSSA provides the unique opportunity for disabled people to participate and succeed through sport, for example, Belfast Deaf Utd, who currently train at PlayBall on a weekly basis and recently won the British Deaf Cup Final which was held in May 2012.

PlayBall has also formed a new and exciting partnership with Whizz-kidz, a charity who support local young wheelchair users and will be supporting them through the provision of inclusive sports coaching.



Schools / Community groups

NICSSA positively contribute to wider community objectives in the areas of sport, health and wellbeing through the use of PlayBall's facilities.

In this context NICSSA has increased sports participation in under-represented groups and delivers on numerous initiatives aimed at increasing the numbers of females, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and over 50's playing sport.

Since opening in 2010 PlayBall has attracted more than 330,000 users from a range of school, club and grassroots sports, including Gaelic games, hockey, football and touch rugby all taking place at the facility. The facility was used extensively by schools for competitive fixtures, training, PE sessions

and tournaments, with Bloomfield Collegiate, Sullivan Upper and Strathearn School booking the facilities on a weekly basis during term time. Funding through Belfast City Council was used to deliver a ten week outreach programme to four local primary schools and the staff at PlayBall continue to build links with local schools through initiatives such as the PlayBall Primary Schools 5-a-side tournament, which attracted seven local schools who competed in the PlayBall Football Festival in 2012.

Likewise, over 25 community groups make use of PlayBall, with initiatives such as Club Footie, a church led programme that uses football as a tool for bringing people together, and promotes friendship, team building and healthy living. Other community clubs include, the football fellowship and the Older and Active Walking Club, for more senior members of our community.



World XI v MLA's

NICSSA are dedicated to creating a shared society using sport and physical activity as a tool to engage with the local community and promoting social inclusion amongst a wide variety of ethnic minorities.

Staff at PlayBall are represented on the new Belfast United forum, with the vision of placing Belfast as one of the leading cities in Europe with regards to football, community engagement and social inclusion.

Other groups involved include the PSNI, North Belfast Play Forum, Belfast Community Sports Development Network, Belfast Street League and World United. As a result of this, a good relations fixture between the World United XI and a number of MLAs took place at PlayBall in May 2012.

Street Striker Project at PlayBall

Developing positive cross-community relations between young people from areas of socio-economic disadvantage is a key part of NICSSA's outreach strategy.

The PlayBall Street Striker project targeted young people (14-17 year olds) from areas of socio-economic disadvantage and used football to promote good community relations and help build a shared future in Northern Ireland. Participants had the opportunity to take part in street football challenges and were allocated to mixed community teams. Several hundred young people participated with the eventual winner travelling to Swansea City FC for a week long trial with the club. The project was endorsed by Brendan Rodgers, Swansea City FC manager and in the interview Brendan stated that, "Projects like Street Striker that reach out into both communities are extremely vital. Sport is the one connector that can bring everything together. The new Northern Ireland is a great place and will hopefully continue to grow and get better."

The project was supported by various groups including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Sport NI, Swansea City and Football for all (IFA). PlayBall Street Striker attracted a large amount of print and broadcast media attention, as the project focused on young people from a main flashpoint area of Belfast.



Cheetahs Holiday Camps

Cheetah's holiday camp promotes young people's participation in sport providing a world class start and promoting lifelong involvement in sport and physical recreation.

NICSSA is committed to increasing children's participation in sport through the Cheetahs Holiday Camps, which provide sporting opportunities over the school holidays. Hundreds of young people attended the camp, taking part in a range of sports activities, such as Football and Gaelic games. Specialised sports coaching helped young people to develop physical literacy, and skills such as teamwork and interaction, while keeping fit. The camp was awarded the prestigious Inspire mark by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and were officially invited to welcome the Olympic Torch to Parliament Buildings, Stormont. The Cheetahs programme has been provided with a permanent fixture on the 'wall of inspiration' at the Copper Box Venue, Olympic Park which showcases their special contribution to the Inspire project. Olympic Boxer, Wayne McCullough who was an ambassador for the Inspire mark programme visited our Cheetahs to offer encouragement & support as they participated in their own 'mini' Olympics.

