

HSE meets union on industrial action

The HSE met with IMPACT last Friday to seek clarification on the 'intensification' of industrial action which commenced this week, taking effect in the West region yesterday (Wednesday).

Given the potential effect on patients and clients of the union imposing a ban on answering tel-

ephones for set periods of time this week, the HSE sought derogations from the union to ensure that disruption to health services was minimised and that patient safety was not compromised during the industrial action.

IMPACT has agreed to grant derogations for switchboards and

for all direct line emergency services such as Emergency Departments. The union has also agreed to direct their members to screen calls related to critical services on an hourly basis to establish whether a direct action is required.

The HSE would like to advise patients and clients that they may

experience difficulty in making contact with HSE services once the intensification of industrial action commences this week. The union has advised that the action will continue beyond this week and that generally less than 24 hours notice of disruption to services will be given.

Stop centralisation of medical card processing – Kelly

No further centralisation of the processing of medical card applications should take place until a root and branch review has been carried out into the preparations undertaken in advance of centralisation, according to Labour Councillor John Kelly.

"Since the system has been centralised there seems to have been a sharp increase in the length of time it is taking for people applying for medical cards to have their claim processed. Also the centralisation has caused confusion and unnecessary

hardship to many who are applying.

"As far as people over the age of 70 are concerned, securing a medical card is the single biggest concern that they have, and thanks to the botched centralisation process, trying to get their application processed has become their single biggest source of stress.

"Nearly a year ago a unilateral decision was made to centralise all medical card applications and renewals. The medical card system was previously based around the local health care providers who made decisions on a case-by-case basis. This system was effective because those who were making decisions had a personal knowledge of the applicants and their needs.

"The new centralised system doesn't have this advantage and this could mean that people who are in need of medical cards may not receive them. The public is finding it extremely difficult to contact the medical card section and when they do finally manage to talk to someone the person they find is often not the person in charge of their case. There is a genuine need for a root and branch review to investigate this situation," concluded Cllr. Kelly.



Cllr. John Kelly

Singers' Circle in Murray's

The next session of the South Roscommon Singers Circle takes place on this Saturday night, 6th March, in Murray's Lounge, Knockcroghery.

The singing starts at 9 pm and this month the emphasis will be on singers from the younger age brackets – late teens, 20s and 30s. However, that does not exclude the older singers who wish to take part because, as always, all singers and listeners are welcome.

We have some interesting guests lined up for the occasion: Annie Marie Murphy originally from Limerick and now a resident of Athenry, will be on her second visit to the South Roscommon Singers Circle, and joining us for the first time will be sister and brother duo Aoife and Cormac Dermody from Dublin, but with strong East Galway roots. Also appearing, fresh from the Senior Scór finals, will be Thomas, Claire and James Murray and company from the local St. Do-

minic's Club.

Annie Marie Murphy has a wide-ranging repertoire of traditional Irish and American Folk and Country Blues material. She first performed in Knockcroghery at last year's Singers Festival and made such an impression on so many people organisers just had to invite her back. Cormac and Aoife Dermody occasionally attend the Ballinasloe Singers Circle, so their singing is familiar to some. Like Annie Marie, their repertoire is wide ranging and diverse; reminiscent in many ways of the 'Olde England' style and range of the late Tim Hart and Maddy Prior of the late 1960s.

As well as the local Scór contingent, we are also expecting (subject to confirmation) a few more mystery guests, so it should be another memorable night for The Circle and a session not to be missed. Admission is free, but there will be a raffle on the night and do bring a friend. Contact: Declan Coyne (087) 9667029.



Nicola Fallon and Paul Flynn who were married in St. Patrick's Church, Castlereagh and enjoyed a reception afterwards in The McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris on the 12th September 2009. Nicola and Paul would like to thank everyone who celebrated their special day with them and for their generous gifts and good wishes. Pic: Jim Schofield/www.irishweddingphotography.com

Benefit night for Kilglass man

A major benefit night is set to take place in Percy French Hotel, Strokestown, on Saturday, 13th March, to support Kilglass man Des Kiernan who was seriously injured in a car accident some months ago.

Des is now in recovery but because of the serious nature of those injuries, he will be laid up for very many months. He is very thankful to be alive and is making slow but steady progress to recovery. Des comes from Ruane in Kilglass and is a member of a large and very popular family in the community. Des himself has always been helpful and supportive to people in need and indeed was always a great supporter of voluntary organisations and people or families in any sort of trouble.

He is a very popular and likeable character and that's the reason a number of very good friends have now come together to raise funds to help Des at this particular time. Tickets are on sale throughout County Roscommon and adjoining counties and cost €10 each. Music will be supplied by the very popular Rooskey based band Gob smacked and apart from the very genuine cause of Des illness, the band will bring many of their loyal followers with them.

The committee meet weekly and are out in their respective communities selling tickets to the public. Des has been always to the fore to help people or organisations in need of support, but many people will know well of his great work for the Roscommon/Mayo Hospice motorbike run from Strokestown to Westport over the past number of years. He has put in trojan work with this group and was so enthusiastic about this event each year.

The committee would like to thank the general public for all of their support to date and urge you and your friends to purchase a ticket and attend on the night. Meanwhile Des and his family would like to thank the general public for their messages of goodwill and support over the past few months.

Repairs needed at Racecourse Road

Cllr. Domnick Connolly has this week called on Roscommon County Council to carry out repairs to the Racecourse Road section of the N60 as a matter of urgency.

"This section of the main road from Roscommon town and Ballymoe and Castlereagh is in a dreadful state of repair, particularly after the icy conditions of recent months," stated Cllr. Connolly.

"It is currently one of the worst roads in the county and I would urge the council to carry out repairs to potholes and to the road surface generally as soon as possible.

"This is a busy road that carries heavy volumes of traffic and it is vital that funding is made available for these repairs to be carried out as a matter of urgency."

sport extra

Win after close encounter with Meath!

Camogie National League
Meath 1-15 Roscommon 2-10

Roscommon were defeated in Ballyforan on Sunday last in what was a game of two halves as there was a very strong wind blowing straight down the field.

Meath got off to a blustering start and had 1-05 on the scoreboard before Roscommon realised they were playing a game. The first two points coming from play from Sinead Hackett. Lizzy Lynch punished some poor defending with a goal and two points from play. Roscommon were trying hard but were guilty of some poor wides and some poor decision-making. It was the 17th minute before Roscommon were to get their first score, off the stick of Sinead O'Brien from play. Meath piled on the pressure and Jane Dolan made no mistakes with her free taking after Roscommon were guilty of numerous bad fouls. Jane added five points from frees and one from a 45 in a 15-minute period. The same player tapped over a nice point from play on the stroke of half time.

Meath started the second half with a 13-metre free from Jane Dolan in the first minute. Annette McGeeney was bearing down on goal before she was clearly taken down by the Meath full back. Kellie tapped over the two metre free. Siobhan Coyle was introduced for Marie Glennon at corner back. Sinead O'Brien tapped over another point from play before Jane Dolan converted another free for Meath. Niamh Coyle stepped up to tap over a point from a tight angle before the same player added a goal.

Roscommon were clawing back at Meath's lead and once again Sinead O'Brien added another point from play. Claire Curley was pulled down and Kellie converted the 20-metre free and added another in the 18th minute. Claire Curley was unlucky not to finish a great move to the net after she only had the goalie to beat, but the goalie brought off a great save to put it out for a 45, which Kellie converted.

Jane Dolan added a point from play for Meath before Sinead O'Brien scored another point from play, which left her with a tally of four points. Kellie tapped over another free after a foul on Claire Curley before Cáit Kenny finished the ball to the net. Game on with two minutes to go, but it was not to be as Roscommon tried hard to get a third goal but it didn't come as Meath ran out winners by two points. Final score Meath 1-15 Roscommon 2-10. Roscommon play Dublin on Sunday next at 2 pm in Athleague.

Roscommon: Caroline Connaughton, Caitriona Morris, Niamh Connolly, Marie Glennon, Caitriona Regan, Donna Kelly, Ciara Moran, Niamh Coyle, Patricia Lennon, Sinead O'Brien Annette McGeeney, Deirdre Regan, Claire Curley, Kelley Hopkins, Cáit Kenny. Subs: Paula Daly, Audrey Morris, Siobhan Coyle for Marie Glennon, Noleen McCormack, Siobhan Beirne, Ciara Kelly, Grainne Egan for Patricia Lennon, Gertie Dowd for Deirdre Regan.