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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY SHORE ORDER OF THE FRIENDLY SONS OF THE SHILLELAGH

August 2023

Your President's Message

Brother Shillelagh's,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer here at the Jersey Shore! Although our slowest time of the year, we have still been busy at the club. And it is about to start heating up some more.

We've just completed another successful Fluke Tournament. Ryan Lavender, Bill Clohosey and Pete Yackel did another spectacular job with this event. Special shout out to Moira Horan for all the work in bringing in some incredible gifts for the gift auction. Thanks to all the volunteers and participants that make this event so successful each August. The bartenders, kitchen crew, security and many other volunteers always step up to make this large event one of our best.

The 1st Annual Shillelagh Golf League participants enjoyed an awards banquet on August 9th at Spring Meadow. Mike Kahrer, Ed Lubowicki and Mark Wybraniec did great work in running the league. Congratulations to the winning team consisting of Bob Stroebel, Joe Ward, Keith Gordon, Don Ginty and Ed Lynskey. In Individual honors, Ed Hickey led the standings with 39 points, with Mark Wybraniec the low gross winner with a 34 and Ryan Lavender the low net winner with a 21. Congrats to all on the start of another outstanding offering from FSOS, Jersey Shore.

We've just brought in another class of new Shillelagh Brothers. Welcome to all! It was very nice meeting most of you these past few weeks. It was great to see six of you show up recently for our tent raising, as well as several of you helping in the kitchen. Get involved and look to volunteer for some upcoming events. You'll enjoy it. Thanks to our Membership Committee Chairman Ned Barrett and his committee consisting of Rick McKenna, Ray Spengler, Jim Gallagher, Anthony Aldorasi and Shawn Lowery for the work done in screening and managing our database.

On Thursday, August 17th, Joe Kelly "Taylor Swift" Bingo returns to the club as an outside event under the tent. Please join us for some great fun and laughs as we raise money for Kelly Antman in her battle with breast cancer. Kelly is the wife of Shillelagh Brother John Antman.

The Shillelagh softball team starts its season on August 20th. A schedule of games will be posted. Co-Managers Brian O'Halloran and Dan Reilly are excited about the team's prospects playing in the Wall Softball League.

On September 16th we will celebrate ½ way to St Patrick's Day at the club. The Innisfree Band will be playing a mix of Irish and rock songs. We will also have the privilege of having "the best band in the land", The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore joining us as well. In addition, we are looking to bring in some Irish Step dancers for some additional entertainment. We will also be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore!

Prayers go out to the family of Shillelagh Brother Donald O'Malley on his passing.

May you and your families be blessed with good health! Hope to see you soon at the

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NEWSLETTER STAFF Ryan Lavender Kevin Giblin



Thursday August 17th • Shillelagh Bingo
Wednesday September 6th • FSOS Monthly Meeting
Saturday September 16th • ½ Way to St Patrick's Day Party
Friday September 22nd • Shillelagh Quad Golf Outing
Monday October 2nd • Pipeband Golf Outing
Saturday October 7th • Shillelagh 5K
Sunday October 8th • Annual NFL Tailgate
Sunday October 15th • Blooddrive

Brotherhood: an association, society, or community of people linked by a common interest, religion, or trade In memory of our brothers who have passed. Donald O'Malley





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The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc., is a charitable organization established and operated to benefit the public interest and is the club's only IRS designated 501C(3) charity and donations are tax deductible. Please help us help individuals in need. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at Info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com.

Please mail donations to:

FSOS Foundation PO Box 627, Belmar, NJ 07719

Northern Ireland Legacy Bill returned to House of Commons with amendments

IrishCentral Contributor Ed Neafsey looks at the recent amendments to the UK's controversial Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill.

Ed Neafsey Contributor @IrishCentral Jul 06, 2023



House of Commons and Palace of Westminster next to the Thames River in London, England.

The House of Lords has passed the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill after amending it. The bill now returns to the House of Commons for consideration of the amendments.

This article will focus on two of the major changes made by the Lords. First, they struck from the bill the provision authorizing grants of immunity to perpetrators of serious crimes. Second, they added language specifying that the objective of a newly created body - the Independent Commission on Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) - will be to promote reconciliation.

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One significant amendment passed by the House of Lords removes a controversial immunity provision

from the bill. That provision provides perpetrators of Troubles-related serious offenses - including "murder, manslaughter or culpable homicide" - immunity from prosecution, if they provide an "account" of conduct that is true to the best of their knowledge and belief.

The immunity provision amounts to a grant of amnesty for perpetrators of serious crimes. It's worse than a get out of jail free card. Indeed, Daniel Holder, Director of the Committee for the Administration of Justice (a Belfast human rights NGO) has described the immunity provision as tantamount to a "get out of investigation free card." Amnesties for the commission of serious crimes, like murder, are prohibited by human rights and humanitarian laws.

It may be a dangerous exercise to forecast what happens to an amended bill when it is returned to the House of Commons. An additional consideration warranting caution, in this case, is a recent Amnesty International commissioned poll of 2,171 United Kingdom (UK) adults. In the poll, 58% of Conservative Party voters said those accused of Troubles-killings should not receive immunity from prosecution in exchange for providing information about their crimes.

Nevertheless, a safe prediction is that the House of Commons will reject the Lords' elimination of immunity and include such a provision in the final version of the law.

First, the Conservative government, which has an overwhelming majority, has made commitments to UK veterans lobbying groups that it will enact a law granting veterans and state security officers immunity, so that they will no longer be subject to investigation and prosecution for their conduct during the Troubles.

Second, the government intends to fast-track the legislation and pass it before the parliamentary term ends later this month.

Third, the government tabled other amendments, passed by the House of Lords, aimed at strengthening the bill in the face of an inevitable court challenge on human rights grounds. Based upon these additions to the bill, the UK government hopes the law can withstand court scrutiny. In that regard, Ireland's Joint Oireachtas Good Friday Committee indicated, once the bill becomes law, it will ask the Irish government to file an interstate-case challenge before the European Court of Human Rights, similar to the famous Ireland v UK (1978) case on torture.

The bill is opposed by each of Northern Ireland's major political parties, the Irish government, members of the US Congress, victims' rights groups, and, most importantly, victims' families. Survivors and victims' families should be at the center of any

legislation dealing with the legacy of the Troubles. Unfortunately, they are not. Therefore, with or without an immunity provision, one can expect this opposition to the bill will continue.

The bill calls for the end of criminal investigations by the Northern Ireland (NI) Police Service on May 1, 2024. Any inquests into the cause of deaths and NI Police Ombudsman legacy investigations must cease, if not completed by that date.

Finally, a victim's family will be foreclosed from filing a civil suit for damages related to the unlawful death of a loved one. Each of these measures is essential to ensuring that NI remains compliant with the European Court of Human Rights caselaw.

In place of these measures, the ICRIR will carry out "reviews" of Troubles-deaths and harmful conduct, grant immunity, produce reports of findings, refer cases they deem appropriate for prosecutors, and produce a historical record of the Troubles. The amended bill states that ICRIR reviews must fully comply with obligations imposed by the 1998 Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights.

"Bill of Shame" - UK's Troubles-era legacy legislation met with outrage

Another amendment has to do with the stated goal of the ICRIR. Language has been added to the bill to make clear that in exercising the functions described above, the ICRIR's principal objective is to "promote reconciliation." In this way, the ICRIR's objective matches one of the objectives in the Bill's title: "Address the legacy of the Northern Ireland Troubles and promote reconciliation."

Why is the additional language about the ICRIR's objective important? As previously stated, amnesties for those who have committed grave breaches of fundamental human rights (for example, violating a person's right to life under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights) are unlawful, because they can lead to impunity for perpetrators.

Under the bill, the ICRIR is the body that grants immunity/amnesty. In dicta in the Margus v Croatia (2014) case, the European Court of Human Rights seemed to accept that an amnesty may be lawful in "some particular circumstances such as a reconciliation process." The new language buttresses the notion that the bill promotes reconciliation and supports an argument that the ICRIR immunity process is part of a reconciliation process, thereby attempting to create a safe harbor for the immunity/amnesty provision.

If that is the intent of this new provision, it widely misses the mark. It would be entirely disingenuous for the UK government to argue that its initiation of a reconciliation process now, coming 25 years after the Good Friday Agreement, qualifies as an exception to the prohibition against amnesties. Also notable is that the UK and Irish governments signed the Stormont House Agreement in 2014 to address legacy matters. It had the support of the major political parties in NI, excluding the Democratic Unionist Party, and victims' families. Yet, the UK unilaterally failed to implement it.

Furthermore, saying the goal is to promote reconciliation doesn't make it so! Reconciliation is the necessary foundation for turning violent conflict into a durable peace. It can be fostered by many things - including building trust and relationships, understanding the other and developing a shared vision of the future, learning to live cooperatively, acknowledging the past, and healing. Truth-telling is a core element of reconciliation.

It's impossible for individuals to reconcile without truth. It is hard to see how replacing police and Ombudsman investigations, inquests, and civil suits with the ICRIR process will enhance truth-telling. In fact, it will obscure the truth. And therein lies the rub.

Each of the soon-to-be discarded measures uncovered facts that had in many cases been intentionally covered-up and hidden, often for

decades. That is the reason why the UK government is abandoning those measures.

The real purpose of the legislation is not reconciliation. It is to cover-up collusion. As Baroness Nuala O'Loan (former NI Police Ombudsman) so eloquently put it during the House of Lords' debate on the bill's third reading: "The real purpose of this bill . . . is to control access to information so that some people will never be able to prove what happened in cases of state action, and to protect those veterans - there are few, both police and military - who may have committed the greatest crime that being murder."

The ICRIR process will not promote reconciliation. It will do the opposite. It will set reconciliation efforts in Northern Ireland back.

This article was submitted to the IrishCentral contributors network by a member of the global Irish community.





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The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore - August 2023!!

First, we want to thank the club and the foundation for the donation to and continuing support for the band! With your generosity, we are utilizing the donation to help pay for instructors for piping and drumming twice a month.

We are having our 25th anniversary fundraiser in November! More info to follow!!

We have about 20 club members in the Band. We have about 1400 club members. I am sure there are more of you out there that always wanted to learn to play bagpipes or drums. We encourage you to show up on a Tuesday night, upstairs around 6:30pm to see what the band is all about!

We are learning new music and our instructors are really helping improve our sound!

Congratulations to Bernadette Mastowski being appointed Drum Corporal! Bernadette is a fantastic tenor drummer and has stepped up to help teach beginners!

Congratulations to new band members Nicole DelGiodice and Rob Moore! Both successfully passed their audition recently! Nicole joins the tenor drum line and Rob joins the snare drum line! They have both worked hard over the last two years or so and earned their spot in the band!

Congratulations to Aileen (Mastowski) Ragusa and her husband Joe!!!! Aileen is pregnant and we are so happy for the two of them!!

PDJS O&A:

1. Is there ever "off time" for the band?

It does seem like we have events every week or two. Sometimes we do have events every week and sometimes multiple events weekly. It depends on the time of year. We do have rehearsal every week and twice a week in January and February as we get closer to parader season.

2. How many events does the band perform?

Approximately 6 to 8 parades annually and we average 8 to 12 fundraisers annually. We also play many events at the club.

3. Does the band make money?

Yes, we make money for some parades. Belmar and Manasquan are unpaid as we lead the club in these

parades. In fact, all club events and just about all fundraisers we perform are unpaid. All funds received go back into the band for uniforms, maintenance, equipment and instructors for the band.

Do you have a question to ask? Let me know and your question can be featured right here!

Do you want to learn to play bagpipes or drums? Yes YOU!! All you need to do is show up to see what it's all about and give it a try!!!

Growth is key for the band's future. It would be great to see more club members (and your families) join the band! Remember the band is not just for club members andlessons are FREE!!!

Reach out and contact me 732-685-9232 so you can get started to become a bagpiper or drummer in the band!

If you already know how to play bagpipes or drums & want to join the band, just head over to practice on a Tuesday evening and check us out. Our email is band@jspipesanddrums.com which can be accessed by visiting our updated website www. jspipesanddrums.com or talk to any band member for information.

Want to have a bagpiper, small group or the band to celebrate a promotion, a backyard bbq or birthday party? We perform for all kinds of events: weddings, funerals, parties, grand openings, ceremonies, graduations, backyard bbq's and more!

For more info, please contact our Band Manager, Mark Mastowski (732-233-6136)

We always try to accommodate all requests. Remember that we, just like you, have family, job and other commitments/obligations (some beyond our control).

Anyone with pictures or video of the band, please send them along to me pdjspiper@hotmail.com

Thank you!

Thank you all and we appreciate the continued support from all of you!!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, September 6th, 2023 7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact information to update?

> Contact Ned Barrett at njbarrett63@gmail.com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at Irish0361@aol.com

Ray Spengler at PDJSpiper@hotmail.com

Have news to share in the newsletter? Contact info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com

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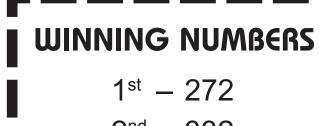
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