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Our Papers

IRSP•urge West Belfast GAA club to honour Crip McWilliams booking

Andersonstown News Thursday

By Ciarán Barnes

This is the ticket that led to the DUP demanding the cancellation of a republican event at a West Belfast GAA club.

On November 21 IRSP supporters plan to have a memorial night at St Paul's GAC on the Shaws Road in memory of INLA man Crip McWilliams, who died of cancer earlier this year.

As well as commemorating the life of the killer of loyalist Billy Wright, the event is doubling up as a fundraiser for INLA prisoners. Tickets, like the one pictured, went on sale earlier this week.

However, the event is now in danger of being cancelled after the DUP complained it would be a commemoration of "terrorism".

A spokesman for the St Paul's committee confirmed it is reviewing the booking. "The committee was unaware of the nature of this booking when it was made by a club member. The committee will be discussing the booking when they next convene."

IRSP spokesman Gerry Foster, whose name the booking is under, urged St Paul's not to bow to demands from the DUP.

He said: "It would be a disgrace if St Paul's back down to DUP demands. After all, this is a party that has labelled the GAA sectarian, criticised GAA clubs for using the names of dead republicans, and which described last month's All-Ireland final between Tyrone and Kerry as an international fixture.

"I hope the event will go ahead, but that decision is down to St Paul's committee," added Gerry.

"I've been to previous republican functions in GAA clubs, including St Paul's, so why should the GAA have a problem with this one?"

Former DUP Sports Minister Edwin Poots warned the GAA that relations would be damaged if the event goes ahead.

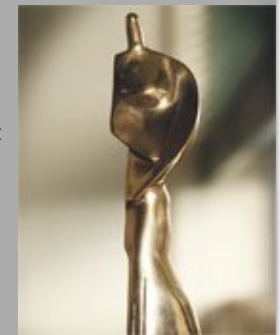
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Love and Marriage

He said: "They should just cancel this booking – these sort of events are normally held in backstreet social clubs.If somebody wants to commemorate people who engage in terrorism that's the place for it, certainly not in a sporting club."

The Wedding Planner

Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue... well, it may not be all that, but it is the premier guide to getting married this year. Click on the front page (right) to read more.

