



Neil Dougan, Comedian

Neil Dougan is one of the strongest established acts on the UK and Irish comedy circuit today. After starting out at The Empire Comedy Club Neil is now a regular compere at The Laughter Lounge in Belfast. His television appearances include:- The Blame Game, The Empire Laughs Back and BBC Northern Ireland's One Night Stand, as well as performing his own one man show at The Glasgow and Edinburgh Comedy Festivals.



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CONFERENCE 2014

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Friday 26th September 2014
Culloden Hotel, Belfast

Conference Programme

Conference Packs

Morning Tea & Coffee

Lunch

Afternoon Tea & Coffee

Pre Dinner Drinks



Dinner

After Dinner Speaker

nirsc PR

Keynote Speaker

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Conference Enquiries:

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Honorary Secretary, NIRSC
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Accommodation Enquiries:

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Bangor Road
Belfast
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Tel: +44 (0) 28 9042 1066
Fax: +44 (0) 28 9042 6777
www.hastingshotels.com

DISCLAIMER: Should a speaker be unable to attend, every attempt will be made to find a substitute and the programme may be modified accordingly. The programme issued will indicate the approximate time of individual sessions but if any substantial change has to be made delegates will be advised if time permits.

WELCOME

Welcome, to the Northern Ireland Region of Shopping Centres Conference 2014.

The Shopping Centre industry - working hand in hand with corporate services - is a very strong and integral part of the Northern Ireland economy. Continuing the theme of "Taking Care of Business", the 2014 Conference is a positive focus on how Shopping Centre Management, Agents, Service Providers, Contractors and Suppliers have all adapted to change over the past few years.

We are in no doubt that the economy - and our own sector - is still suffering from the effect of the recession, but we are starting to see green shoots returning in customer confidence. It is with this in mind that this year's Conference provides a great platform on which to network with colleagues from both within and outside the industry, listen to influential guest speakers throughout the day and gain knowledge that can be applied to each of our own centres and businesses and make the most of the positive aspects we are starting to see.

It is also important that The Sponsors of the 2014 NIRSC Conference require a special mention. As always their continued support is very much appreciated.

This year the NIRSC is proud to be supporting The Michaela Foundation, a charity that was inspired by the life of Michaela McAreavey. The Foundation offers young people throughout Ireland the chance to live their lives without limits, and offers programmes which are tailored to establish a happy, confident, faith filled life!

For further information and forthcoming events, I would like to direct you to our newly updated website - www.nirsc.com and Facebook page.

On behalf of the NIRSC Committee and myself, I hope you enjoy the day.

Chris Nelmes
Chairman



Jim Fitzpatrick, Conference Facilitator

Jim Fitzpatrick is an award-winning independent broadcaster and journalist with a specialist interest in Ireland's economics and politics. Until recently he held the post of Economics and Business Editor for the BBC in Ireland. Previously he fronted much of the BBC NI's political coverage as the presenter of The Politics Show, Stormont programming and party conferences. He has interviewed many leading politicians from Ireland, the UK and beyond.

0900 – 1000	Registration
1000 – 1015	Conference Facilitator Jim Fitzpatrick Welcome by NIRSC Conference Chairperson
1015 – 1030	Opening Address by Simon Hamilton MLA Minister of Finance and Personnel
1030 – 1115	Angela McGowan Economic Update: The Global, National and local perspective
1115 – 1145	Tea & Coffee
1145 – 1230	Dr Karise Hutchinson Retail Sector Challenges and Opportunities: Back To The Future
1230 – 1330	Tom Avery Reaching for the summits of the Earth
1330 – 1430	Lunch
1430 – 1615	Eileen Connolly, Naomh McElhatton & Linda Imadojemun Intergrated Mall Marketing – to infinity and beyond – on a budget!
1615 – 1645	Tea & Coffee
1645 – 1730	Keynote Speaker: Gerald Ratner Back from the Brink
1730 – 1900	Pre-dinner Drinks Reception (Jazz quartet)
1900 – 2200	Conference Dinner, After Dinner Speaker: Neil Dougan



Simon Hamilton, Minister of Finance and Personnel

Simon has been Northern Ireland's Minister of Finance and Personnel since his appointment to the post in July 2013 by First Minister Peter Robinson. Educated at Queen's University, Belfast, Simon began his career in a leading accountancy firm in Belfast.



Angela McGowan, Danske Bank

Angela joined (what was then) Northern Bank in 2008 from the Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland (ERINI) where she worked as a Senior Economist. Her 19 years' experience in the economics field began as a Research Associate in the Economics Department of Queen's University.



Dr Karise Hutchinson, Ulster Business School

Karise is Head of the Business and Enterprise Department at The Ulster Business School, University of Ulster. She holds a PhD in Retailing and is regularly called upon for her expert opinion in news and current affairs including UTV, BBC, Belfast Telegraph and The Irish News.



Tom Avery, Polar Explorer, Mountaineer, Author

Tom is one of only 41 people in history to reach both the North and South poles on foot. Tom provides a unique and highly motivating lesson for any organisation by stressing the key requirements needed to meet and overcome unexpected obstacles which are the vital ingredients in achieving results when under extreme pressure.



Eileen Connolly, Executive Director, MADISON SOHO

Eileen has over 30 years experience in the retail property marketing sector and has made an unrivalled positive impact on the global shopping mall industry throughout her career. Eileen is an accomplished strategic marketer with a deep understanding of all marketing and related communications disciplines.



Naomh McElhatton, Managing Director, RUA

As the Founder of RUA, Naomh takes the job of building your brand and being creative in the digital market place to heart. She is known for her innovation, spark and attention to detail, but most of all for her love of achieving award winning recognition for her clients.



Linda Imadojemun, Marketing Officer, River Island

With over 5 years' experience in the fashion sector, Linda Imadojemun is currently Marketing Officer at British fashion retailer, River Island. Specialising in Retail, she manages the execution of multi-channel projects across the brand's national and local Marketing strategies.



Gerald Ratner, CEO, geraldonline.com

Gerald Ratner took over as CEO of the family jewellery chain in the mid 80s, becoming one of Britain's best known businessmen. He transformed it from 130 stores with sales of £13m, to a public company with 2,500 stores and sales of over £1.2bn. By 1990, Ratner's was the world's largest jewellery retailer with profits in excess of £120m. Gerald is now known better as the CEO of geraldonline.com.