

# new ideas

## ...in case Brooke talks collapse

By

David Watson

PROPOSALS for a new political forum are being drawn up by the DUP, in anticipation of the "talks about talks" initiative by Secretary of State Peter Brooke collapsing.

The ideas — still embryonic — are being examined by the party's deputy leader, Mr Peter Robinson, and leading officers Mr Sammy Wilson and Mr Nigel Dodds. The trio were commissioned to draft proposals at a recent DUP meeting.

Although not finalised, current thinking is that the DUP would envisage:

- A new body of local politicians who would discharge some limited restored administrative powers, and also continue looking for an alternative to the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

- It would be councillor-based. Individual parties would nominate its members, who would be appointed by the Secretary of State. It might grow into an elected forum.

- Local government-type powers would be administered by the new body, on

a proportional basis of their strength, roughly on lines embodied in the Prior Assembly of 1982.

DUP leader the Rev Ian Paisley has sounded out both Mr Brooke and the Ulster Unionist leader, Mr Jim Molyneux, on the ideas.

But those involved in the drafting were today angry that an outline of their current thinking appeared in the Irish Times, which said the DUP has recently been urging Mr Brooke to pursue his own agenda "in the areas over which Dublin has no veto".

The leak occurred before they had completed their task or reported to the DUP executive.

Mr Robinson said: "When we have proposals to release we will do so ourselves. I wouldn't comment on it at all."

Mr Wilson said: "We would prefer to see the present initiative take some form and the Secretary of State should move towards the setting up of talks to replace the Agreement.

"But if it fails, we are planning to have proposals of our own. It is important we don't just allow a vacuum to develop if Mr Brooke does not take courage in his hands and give the SDLP a push when he should give them a push."

Mr Wilson, a former Lord Mayor, confirmed that he, Mr Robinson and Mr Dodds were considering what proposals might be made and that Mr Faisley had "tested the waters" with the Northern Ireland Office and the Ulster Unionists.

The DUP stressed that their ideas are not definitive thinking and that more detailed consideration has yet to be put into their project. They are also believed to want some format in which local politicians would have an input to Northern Ireland's legislative process.

# Social club loses licence

By

Marie Foy

A POLICE application to cancel the licence of Casement Social Club in west Belfast was granted in the city's magistrates court yesterday.

The application was made on the grounds that the club had failed to keep proper books and had failed to set up a satisfactory system of control of accounts in compliance with the Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1987.

The club will be able to continue business pending an appeal.

RM, Mr Tom Travers, heard that in 1988, the club treasurer was also treasurer of the Antrim County GAA and that he had kept money from both organisations in a club safe.

Between matches, float money for the Casement Park gates had been "mixed" with cash from the club's gaming machines and later taken out again.

The court heard this happened as a security measure, following a number of robberies.

However, the temporary mixing of the money led to confusion in the account books, Mr Travers was told.

The court also heard that primary records such as cash-till dockets and daily cash reconciliation sheets had not been kept.

The Crown accountant concluded that proper accounts had not been kept and that a more detailed and complex accounting system was needed.

The club's auditor said he was satisfied there was a proper system of cash controls, but this had been further improved since these matters came to light.

The social club and GAA monies were now completely separate, he assured the court.

The accountant said he regarded it as preferable that primary records should be kept, but contended that in this case, they were not essential.

Summing up for the club, Mr Tom Cahill, QC said the Order did not specifically require clubs to retain primary records.

As far as the auditor was concerned everything was in order, he said, but he was honest

# Ulster rate up by 17p

By

Nigel Gould

ULSTER's new domestic regional rate has set at 153.40p in the pound — an increase of just over 17p on last year's figure.

The figure will be added to the district rate, already struck by each of the province's 26 district councils, to calculate the final rate bill for each home.

The new non-domestic regional rate has been set at 165.40p in the pound.

Belfast has the highest district rate in Northern Ireland at 96.73p in the pound, while Ballymena is the lowest at 51p.

Announcing the new rates the Department of Finance said total rate-borne expen-

Council	Present Total Rate	New District Rate	New Regional Rate	New Total Rate
Belfast	224.35	96.73	153.40	250.13
Derry	220.27	90.50	153.40	243.90
Moyle	210.49	79.57	153.40	232.97
Carrick	205.77	76.45	153.40	229.85
Ards	201.27	76.22	153.40	229.62
Craigavon	206.94	76.05	153.40	229.45
Larne	200.95	75.00	153.40	228.40
North Down	205.51	74.88	153.40	228.28
Down	206.27	73.50	153.40	226.90
Newtownabbey	200.96	73.25	153.40	226.65
Strabane	203.52	72.75	153.40	226.15
Omagh	200.57	69.90	153.40	223.30
Newry/Mourne	194.27	62.10	153.40	215.50
Fermanagh	193.77	61.50	153.40	214.90
Coleraine	191.27	61.00	153.40	214.40
Banbridge	191.55	59.63	153.40	213.03
Ballymoney	190.27	59.75	153.40	213.15
Limavady	186.87	58.51	153.40	211.91
Lisburn	191.83	57.83	153.40	211.23
Antrim	190.77	56.50	153.40	209.90
Cookstown	188.02	56.00	153.40	209.40
Armagh	183.77	54.00	153.40	207.40
Magherafelt	185.27	52.95	153.40	206.35
Warrington	184.02	52.33	153.40	205.73