

**Application for Occasional Licence**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Premises</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Dates Requested</b>	<b>Times Requested</b>
Neil Edward Worcester	Royal Troon Golf Course Craigend Rd Troon	Golf Open 2024	13 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	On Sale 10:00 – 00:00* Off Sale 10:00 – 22:00 *Outwith Board Policy
Kevin Quinn	Troon and District Sports Club Marr Rugby Club Isle of Pin Road Troon	Golf Open 2024	14 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2024	On Sale 10:00 – 23:00* *Outwith Board Policy

Neil Edward Worcester – Personal Licence Holder  
Occasional Licence Application – 13<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024  
Report by Licensing Standards Officer

I refer to the Occasional Licence application made by Neil Edward Worcester, who holds a Scottish personal licence. The application is to cover the full hospitality provision for the 152<sup>nd</sup> Open Golf Championships which are being held on the Royal Troon Golf Course in Troon and the dates requested are Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.

A licence is requested from 10am until 12 midnight each day for the whole site which includes outdoor drinking (not beyond 10pm) and drinking within the tents and structures that are being erected for this purpose.

Considerable work and discussions have taken place prior to the submission of the Occasional Licence application and an alcohol management plan and additional document regarding the use of glass bottles have been lodged on behalf of the applicant by the event organiser as the applicants representatives have been made aware of South Ayrshire Licensing Board Policy statement and their practices in relation to compliance with the licensing objectives.

Whilst the majority of what is proposed by the applicant now meets the Board's policy, as LSO I am aware that the proposal to permit Champagne bottles to be carried by patrons out of the 'Champagne Tent and designated external seating/drinking area' and on to the course is NOT a practice that the Board has permitted at any large outdoor event and it is generally a condition on outdoor Occasional Licences that alcohol must be decanted into non-glass receptacles. I would therefore request that the Board considers refusal of this part of the application under the licensing objective 'Securing Public Safety' and to remain consistent with the licenses granted to other large events in South Ayrshire over the past year.

A document has been lodged by the event organiser with the Occasional Licence application to provide further information in relation to this proposal as I have made it clear from my first discussions with the Royal and Ancient that I would object to any glass being taken out with the hospitality venues and their designated outdoor seating areas.

With reference to this document, I note that the R & A and its safety advisors do recognise the safety risk of glass receptacles and agree to decanting all drinks into non-glass alternatives to eliminate the risk of breakages and any associated injuries as a result. However, the applicant has indicated their intention to allow patrons to leave the champagne area with a bottle (and a non glass drinking receptacle) so that they may carry the bottle around the entire site (excluding the stands which are not covered by the licence) and pour the champagne themselves as and when required. In practice this means that patrons would have a glass bottle anywhere throughout a very large site and whilst there are numerous bins and security staff and I accept that the robust nature of the structure of a champagne bottle makes it less likely to break, it does not reduce the risk of the bottle being used as a 'weapon' in the event of any altercation. Indeed on the Scottish Government website, a paper produced to discuss the recorded crimes in Scotland gives details of crimes where an 'offensive weapon' has been used and gives the example of an offensive weapon which includes 'Glass Bottles'. Similarly a study produced by Glasgow Caledonian University in 2010 was specifically commissioned to research 'The use of glass as a weapon in violent assault' and a simple internet search provides details of injuries sustained to individuals who have been hit on the head by glass bottles within the past week in the UK.

Whilst these examples may seem extreme, I believe they demonstrate the point that glass bottles do have to be considered when complying with the licensing objective 'Securing Public Safety' and the risk is not just one of potential breakages.

I am also aware that the event organiser has indicated that the only glass bottles they intend to permit on the golf course are specifically champagne bottles from one of the event sponsors. Whilst I understand the reasons for this in terms of advertising and support for the event, I am unable to see how the Board could find reason to allow this but not a specifically branded wine bottle or other alcoholic beverage at this or any other local event and how permitting this particular bottle would be any different to other receptacles such as fish bowls, jugs or a variety of other containers which are now popular for the storage and distribution of more than one serving of alcohol.

As the applicant for the Occasional Licence, Neil Worcester will have overall responsibility for the sale of alcohol at the event and will have a team of staff to ensure that this is in accordance with the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the Board's policy and in accordance with the 5 licensing objectives. Since the introduction of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 (in 2009) there have been many studies in relation to 'Scotland's Relationship with Alcohol' and the Chief medical officer has also issued updated guidance that the maximum recommended intake of alcohol for both male and females is 14 units a week. South Ayrshire Licensing Board have been addressed in relation to this information over the years by Alcohol Focus Scotland and Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Action Team and other health organisations, and as a result the Board have expressed (through their development of their policy statement, discussions with the Local Licensing Forum and their decisions) their desire to ensure staff are correctly trained when serving alcohol and have the necessary training, experience and support to ensure refusal of service when appropriate.

If a bottle of champagne (on average 9 units of alcohol) is permitted to be taken away from the service area by an individual patron then the staff who sold that bottle may have to assume that the purchaser will consume the contents by themselves. Whereas when the individuals are served directly at the service area or consume it within a designated area it is easier for staff to make an assessment on the suitability of that individual before more alcohol is served to them.

The Board have encouraged this practice which has been operated successfully by other Occasional Licence holders at large high profile events within South Ayrshire, the most recent example of this has been the Scottish Grand National Festival at Ayr Racecourse where champagne can be purchased in bottles and consumed outside within the champagne lawns but is not permitted to be carried out of that area.

The condition that South Ayrshire have added to the Occasional Licence for two other large outdoor events recently, namely Nigefest and the Pavillion Festival and Streetrave is; 'All alcohol is to be decanted and not served in glassware or bottles'.

Also whilst I understand this is a 'sporting event' and not a 'music festival' or similar, I do not feel that this provides enough of a mitigation to permit the use of glass and encourage the Board to deviate from their usual practice. In South Ayrshire we have other sporting stadiums such as football and rugby and as LSO I would equally object to the request to have glass outdoors at these events and venues.

The request for an Occasional Licence includes a curfew of 12midnight for on sales and having spoken to the applicant I am aware that this is only to permit consumption of alcohol within the premises and structures, not for any to be taken outside as this will cease at 10pm, even if a patron wants to leave for fresh air or to smoke for example. With this in mind I can confirm that this part of the application is not out with the Boards policy and I have no objections to any other part of this Occasional Licence application which has been made after full discussions.

I am comforted by the information provided within the alcohol management plan and by the experience of the applicant and the staff that will be supporting him throughout the event, and whilst I understand that the demographic of those attending the event is deemed to be a lower risk in terms of any violence or disorder, as LSO I feel there is a need to be consistent and to consider the Board's own knowledge of the area and the recent (and future) licences applied for and granted in South Ayrshire.

In Summary I would ask the Board to grant the application for the Occasional Licence as requested with the exception of the intention to allow champagne bottles to be taken out with the Champagne area which in my submission would not be in keeping with the licensing objective 'Securing Public Safety'. For this reason, I would ask the Board to add a condition to the licence to state;

All alcohol is to be decanted and not served in glassware or bottles. With the exception of Champagne bottles which may be used within the designated champagne premises and an associated outdoor delineated area but must not be taken out with this area.

Catrina Andrew  
Licensing Standards Officer  
29th April 2024

Troon & District Sports Club, Isle of Pin Road, Troon  
Occasional Licence Application – 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024  
Report by Licensing Standards Officer

I refer to the Occasional Licence application made on behalf of Troon & District Sports Club, which is known locally as Marr Rugby Club. The application is to cover the use of these premises as a campsite and facilities for visitors attending the 152<sup>nd</sup> Open Golf Championships which are being held on the Royal Troon Golf Course in Troon and the dates requested are Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

A licence is requested from 10am until 11pm each day for the period of the Open Golf for the purpose of permitting non-members access to the premises which will be run by a specialist hospitality company as a campsite and entertainment venue.

Board members will be aware that these premises are currently licensed as a 'Members Club' and therefore access to them is restricted to members and guests of those members. To allow the premises to be utilised by non-members an Occasional Licence is required and I have been in discussion with committee members from the Club who understand the requirements and their responsibilities as licence holders. It is proposed that a campsite will be set up on the pitches and further tented structures will host a bar and hospitality area and wash tent. The permanent Clubhouse will also be in use and the facilities utilised by current club members as well as those visiting the area. Whilst it will not be 'staffed' by members of Troon & District Sports Club, the Committee have ensured that personal licence holders and fully trained staff will be utilised by the company operating the temporary units during the period covered by the Occasional Licence.

The application requests a curfew of 11pm, which includes the use of an outdoor area which is out with the Board's usual policy. However, it is anticipated that due to the layout of the camping village there are likely to be people outside beyond the usual 10pm and therefore the application is to ensure this is covered by the licence.

There are not any direct neighbours and those that are within the vicinity will be aware of the additional people and provisions in the area during this period and the anticipated increase in noise and potential mild disturbance as a result.

As the applicant has asked for information and guidance prior to lodging this application and being aware that this is a major event in the area, I would suggest that the grant of the 11pm as requested is appropriate in these circumstances.

Catrina Andrew  
Licensing Standards Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2024