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Ex-Celtic physio is cautioned over leak


THE former physiotherapist at Celtic FC has been cautioned by his professional body for leaking confidential information about players to a private medical company and for failing to keep proper records.

The Health Professions Council (HPC), the regulatory body for physiotherapists in the UK, issued Brian Scott, 52, with a caution, ruling that he "acted in an unprofessional and unethical manner and his behaviour lacked integrity and honesty". An HPC disciplinary

panel found that Scott allowed himself to be seen promoting a "phy-back" machine using his association with Celtic Football Club without his employer's permission.

However, the panel cleared him of being under the influence of alcohol on pre-season tours to Sweden and the US.

Scott was sacked in August 2003 after 24 years at Parkhead. He took Celtic to an employment tribunal, but settled with the club halfway through the hearing in 2004.


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Blunders made by hospital scientist

'Vulgar' drinker struck off

A HOSPITAL scientist with a drink problem has been struck off by her professional body after making a string of blunders.

June Wendy Elliott, who was a biomedical scientist at the University Hospital of Hartlepool, made mistakes relating to the superbug MRSA, a disciplinary hearing was told.

The 43-year-old was also involved in providing the wrong results in respect of pregnancy tests and was found guilty of misconduct.

Colin Allies, chairman of the Health Professions Council disciplinary hearing in London, said: "Because of the gravity of the misconduct, evidence of her history of alcohol problems and a lack of information demonstrating she has the insight and resolve to address issues, the panel concluded striking off was necessary."

Mr Allies said it was a particular concern that there was potential danger to patients in that the wrong

by **Gary Martin**

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treatment could have been given out.

Investigations that followed her work problems revealed that Mrs Elliott, of Wordsworth Close, Billingham, had been ejected from Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium during a football match for being drunk.

The hearing heard that on November 28 Mrs Elliott had worked at the microbiology department at Hartlepool's hospital smelling of alcohol and made 15 errors that related to 14 patients. On another day there were nine errors.

She was described as being "un-groomed" and "loud and vulgar" and was dismissed for reporting for duty under the influence of alcohol.

Among the results were errors relating to tests for bacteria, MRSA and pregnancy. Although these had not gone out to patients, they involved giving negative results that were actually positive.

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Paramedic suspended over callout

A paramedic who failed to properly care for an injured woman has been suspended from duty for a year.



Mr McLean qualified as a paramedic in 1998

The Health Professions Council ruled that Alistair McLean did not undertake a proper patient clinical assessment.

The regulator also said Mr McLean failed in his duty of care to her, following the incident in March 2004.

Mr McLean had taken the patient, who was found unconscious at the bottom of a set of stairs, to Perth Royal Infirmary following an emergency call.

However, instead of assessing the patient, he relied on information supplied to him by his crew partner.

The council's conduct and competence committee said that to take no action against Mr McLean, who is currently unable to work because of a medical condition, would be "insufficient to protect the public".

The findings stated that he had shown remorse and had no "malicious intent" in his actions.

The Scottish Ambulance Service said Mr McLean, who was based at Crieff ambulance depot, no longer worked for them.

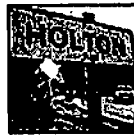
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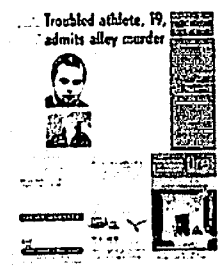
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Operating dept medic abused drugs at work

A FORMER employee of Kettering General Hospital has been struck off after overdosing on stolen drugs and collapsing while on duty.

Fiona Kuhns, from Corby, who worked as an operating department practitioner at Kettering and Northampton General Hospitals, was found guilty of stealing drugs from operating theatres and using them at work, lying to colleagues and management about her drug abuse and forging a doctor's signature to obtain drugs.

Miss Kuhns - whose job involved providing vital assistance during surgery - has now been struck off by the Health Professions Council, who described the incident as a particularly serious case.

The HPC said in its findings: "Not only has Miss Kuhns put the health of patients at risk, she has also seriously compromised her own safety.

"Additionally her actions have put work colleagues under suspicion, they were not isolated incidents and they continued after she knew that she was suspected of abusing drugs."

After being sacked from KGH for stealing drugs Miss Kuhns was employed on a locum agency basis at Northampton General Hospital.

On Miss Kuhns' second day at the hospital morphine went missing from an operating theatre in which she was working. She later collapsed and was treated for an overdose.

Examination of the controlled drugs register showed Miss Kuhns had forged the signature of a doctor to justify the removal of morphine.

Miss Kuhns would have had access to specialist drugs and intravenous equipment in her role as an ODP, which involves preparing anaesthetics for patients having surgery.

An ODP works alongside surgeons, theatre nurses and anaesthetists to ensure all operations are carried out safely and effectively.

In a letter in 2005, Miss Kuhns admitted she was addicted to drugs and was "taking steps" to address her problem.

A spokesman for Kettering General Hospital was unable to comment.



Honoured for health work

AMONG those recognised in the New Year Honours were two local people working in healthcare.

The chief executive of Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust John McIvor of Lound (pictured below left) has been awarded an OBE for services to the NHS, and Professor Norma Brook of Blyth (pictured bottom right) has received the CBE for services to healthcare.



"I am surprised and delighted by the honour - and it is an honour," said Mr McIvor.

"I hope this is in recognition of not just myself but all the people who work in Rotherham, Doncaster and Lincolnshire," he added.

Before recently joining Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust Mr McIvor was chief executive of Rotherham Primary Care Trust.

Mr McIvor said he hoped the honour was also for work in addressing health inequalities in the area.

Professor Norma Brook was President of the Health Professions Council from April 2002 to July 2006.

She is currently a member of the Hearing Aid Council and has made a major contribution in developing the new framework and regulation of hearing aid dispensers.

She is currently a self-employed consultant in physiotherapy and is also a physiotherapy education advisor to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Over the last few years, Norma has been awarded honorary doctorates, by Robert Gordon University, the University of East Anglia, Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Brighton and the University of Central England.

