

News from the Bridge . . .



2007/08 Club Chairman, Richard Hawkins

Well what a lovely day we had on the barge trip up the River Orwell the other Sunday. Some 90 members and guests filled two barges. My congratulations to the social committee for suggesting the event and to Robert for organizing it.

Another excellent recent function was the Summer Soiree which was held at the club, where we opened the outside eating area as an extension to the bar. Next time that you are in the club at lunch time or even coffee time please do give it a try.

I also attended the performance of the play 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' which was held outside in the grounds of Ickworth Park. An excellent evening was had although it did become a little damp at the half way point. Umbrellas had to be erected much to annoyance of Bob Sambrook, who requested loudly that they should be lowered – no notice was taken and in fact a few move went up!!

Two of our long serving directors, David Wass and Bob Wright, are retiring at the end of this year and my thanks go to them for their excellent service that they have given to the club over the years. We are now looking for two replacement directors, one preferably with legal expertise.

If you are interested in becoming a director please contact Robert for consideration by the board.

We are sailing . . .

NINETY-odd members of the I&SC took to the water on Sunday June 29th, boarding two barges - Thistle and Cabby - at the Old Customs House on Ipswich waterfront and spending the day cruising down towards the sea and back. The chairman can report that his boat ran out of ham at one point but after breaking open the ship's stores further rations were found. He also felt a need to note that the chairman of snooker David Green and wife were spotted having a little nap after lunch!

Nobody suffered from seasickness, scurvy or got keel-hauled.

On a historic note: the day before Thistle and Cabby had been competing in the Pinmill Sailing Club's 47th Annual Barge race.



Standley recounts the tale of the "one that got away" to anyone willing to listen



Sheila & Tina finding their sea legs, with the barge, "Cabby" inset



General Manager's report

We have achieved a great deal over the past six months with our new terrace, refurbished Snug, major works within the kitchen, and upgraded security. I thank you all for your help and co-operation. The next twelve months will be challenging for us as I will be continuing the necessary works within the house along with refurbishment of the Reading Room, bar area and hopefully a new boiler, which along with other energy saving measures will help significantly over the next decade.

I will also attempt to clean up the snooker rooms and with your help there are some cues which belong to former members which we are unable to trace. We need to identify these cue's and I would ask all Members with a cue kept at the Club to pop in for a label to attach to your cue case before 30th September 2008. On or shortly after 10th October 2008, those cue cases without the label or any identity will be removed and unless the

owners can be traced, they will have to be disposed of.

I trust you enjoyed your March to August Social Calendar and rest assured I will always listen and act on your feedback as you are all important to its development. To all you Bridge players I now understand what Bridge players like to eat. I have a great new Social Calendar for September to February so please book early for any event you wish to attend on the calendar as seats will sell fast.

Due to hard work and loyalty from both the staff and you the members we have been able to hold our subscription fees yet again at 2006 prices and will continue to invest heavily in areas that benefit members.

I have enjoyed my two years at the club. I have found it a pleasurable challenge and intend to continue to serve its members in the traditional manner they deserve from an established Private Members Club that is now the envy of many others . . .

Robert Coppin

Farewell, but not goodbye!



I have decided to 'hang up my boots' after completing 25 years as a Director, on the basis that 25 years is quite long enough for one innings and before I join the ranks of grumpy old men if I had not attained that soubriquet long ago!

I can honestly say that I have enjoyed pretty much every minute of it and it has been nothing but a pleasure to have served the Club. For obvious reasons, I have largely been involved in looking after the buildings and that programme of improvement continues although maintaining our lovely listed building is a huge drain on the club's resources.

I must just take this opportunity to thank Claire for all her help in firstly allowing me out from time to time (I was at one time issued with a dog tag which said 'if found please return etc' which regrettably was needed on one occasion in the company of the present Chairman) but also for her skill in refurbishing the main rooms a few years ago, after they had remained unchanged

for many prior years, and which was the start of a major uplift in the quality of the Club's facilities, and which she did very largely as support to me.

I retire leaving the Club in as good an order as it has been for a long time, largely due to the very prudent decision to appoint a skilled Professional Manager so I am perfectly happy to pass the baton on and to wish the Club every success for the future.

Finally I must record my grateful thanks to the Members and Directors in awarding me honorary Membership. I regard that as a very great privilege especially since I join that stalwart of the Club and old friend Chris Cocksedge who also did a 25 year stint, and I am very honoured by it. Serving the Club and its Members has been no hardship whatsoever and I have hugely enjoyed the friendship and the fun that it has given me. I have had some spectacular Directors dinners at the Members expense – the only recompense that a Director receives – so thank you all!

I now retire to the back benches and look forward to the successful continuance of what is both an anachronism and a wonderful institution if not taken too seriously. It is, after all, there simply to be enjoyed, to have some fun in and to meet some nice people. It succeeds on all three counts.

Best wishes - David J Wass

Strawberries & Champagne

Our annual Champagne and Strawberries wine tasting was, as usual, a very convivial affair. The house was packed and we had quite a few new faces enjoying this very popular event.



Wine Committee Chairman Bruce Murrill enjoys (yet another) glass of fine Champagne.

Plans are afoot for the next few months, and we expect to have a new format to our next Wine Tasting evening on September 12th. We have invited Neathergate Wines to supply our wines and to participate in a fun evening of Call My Bluff as a panellist with 2 of our wine committee. We will be trying to outfox you and test your palates, in a light hearted, fun evening. Book early!

On November 22nd we again introduce 'wines of the vintage years' - an event that always proves to be popular. The evening will allow you to sample very good wines that were made in those years in which the grapes had ideal conditions for their area of growth, resulting in wines of exceptional quality. Again book early. Look out also for early in the new year when we hope to bring you another exceptional oenological experience.

Club golf

In April at Purdis our team of 12 were victorious and won the Priarch trophy against the team from Colchester Garrison Officer Club and we look forward to a return match at Colchester Golf Club in 2009.

In June our team also won the Turnbull trophy at Flempton against The Bury Farmers. This was a great event and much enjoyed, once again we are looking forward to next year.

The club golf knock-out for the Northgate trophy is now well underway almost down to the last eight players.

And finally notice of our annual golf day at Purdis on 1st October 2008, 12.45 start, the entry sheet is now on the club sports notice board.

Yours in Golf - A.M.Gosling

Snooker & billiards update

Both tables have been recovered and serviced and the lighting improved in the Billiards room with the Snooker room to follow shortly. The entry lists for the Winter 2008/9 Competitions will be put up in early August and I am optimistic that the number of entries in all competitions will increase for the third year running. Do please enter as many competitions as you can – preferably all five! Entry by email is also welcomed – I was pleasantly surprised to find 60 of the 65 participating members on email. The Taylor Centenary Tankards Semis and Final evening is on Thursday 12th February 2009 and the main Finals evening on Thursday 23rd April 2009

We have a full program of matches arranged from September 2008 until the end of 2009 and all are welcome to play. Do contact me if you wish to

play and have not yet been approached. Tuesday evenings have become so popular that some members have started playing on Wednesday evenings (sometimes as well as Tuesday!). The bar is often open and this may help some of you who could not make Tuesday – again, all are welcome.

We enjoyed an influx of new players last year but we still need more of you to play, particularly younger members. There must be some of you who played in their youth and would enjoy playing again and there are several of us who would give advice (if required) and practice. Those who are interested will always be welcomed and should contact me.

Finally, please respond (if appropriate) to the item in the Manager's report regarding the disposal of cues.



Finals Night Winners with David Green Cptn of Snooker and Bruce Murrill Vice Chairman



Stan Gaskin & Malcolm Stredwick just enjoying the camaraderie.



Bury Farmers had a perfect evening with us.

The Results - Winter 2007/08 Competitions

Competition	Winner(s)	Runner(s) – up
Snooker Open	D.Cowley	D.J.Green
Snooker Handicap	D.G.Tuckwell	N.Jackson
Norman Baynes Billiards	M.W.Devitt	J.A.Marjason
Taylor Centenary Tankards	R.H.Geary & M.W.Devitt	R.Berrisford & A.R.Anderson
Claud West	V.D.Alexander	R.H.G.Watson

Congratulations to you all and thanks particularly to the referees – Messrs Alexander, Croucher, Murrill and Savage.

David Green 01473-226794
email – davjan7@ntlworld.com

Bridge club

I am pleased to be able to report that the Bridge Club continues to progress since it was first started in April 2002 when we met for the last two Tuesday mornings of the week during the winter months.

I think that I must have bored most of the members then, for the time was spent mostly on chalk and talk, or should I say flip chart and marker



The popular Bridge drive April 2008

pen, although none of them actually fell asleep as I recall.

During the early days it was mostly demonstration hands, and then we progressed to the actual bidding and play of the hands.

There were of course many funny instances that occurred, the obvious ones being, bidding in the wrong order, trying to play in a contract that had not actually been bid. i.e. trying to trump a suit whilst playing in a no trump contract. However, as time went on everyone started to get to grips with what is a fantastic game.

It is particularly rewarding to see just how much progress has been made, with some of the members now playing regularly in formal bridge clubs, and some even going abroad on bridge holidays!

As of this year, we meet every

Tuesday morning and it seems to work very well as we have an average of four tables at each session.

One of the most important parts of our earlier playing days has been carried on religiously, the extended break for coffee and biscuits. I have of course over the years tried hard to reduce the time taken for this event; to no avail. The Ladies do like to have to have their little chat!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for their cards, telephone calls and visits, wishing me well in my unexpected absence of six weeks due to ill health, particularly Sylvia Glazebrook and John Hooper who have been organising the bridge whilst I have been away.

I can report that I am now well on the road to recovery and hope to back to see you all very soon.

Steve Croucher

Recent Club Events

Since our last newsletter, there have been a large number of highly successful events held at the club, some of which have been captured on camera. These include the particularly successful Champagne and Strawberries Evening, our annual Normandy Dinner and a fantastic Speaker's Lunch with Charlie Haylock.

The programme of events for the rest of the year can be found in your Club Social Calendar and we respectfully recommend early booking for all events to avoid disappointment.



Normandy Dinner

17th May 2008

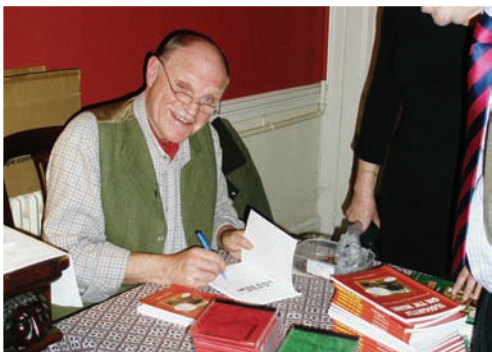
Many thanks to all who attended for making this annual event another success.



Champagne & Strawberries

4th July 2008

Another capacity event which has now become a permanent fixture on the ISC Social Calendar.



Other Events

Charlie Haylock (left) offered us a fascinating insight into the Suffolk dialect, meanwhile our new terrace area was officially opened to members.



Joint Membership

This is an excellent time to upgrade your membership to include your spouse or partner.

The cost is less than £80.00 + VAT for the coming membership year.

Interested? Contact General Manager Robert Coppin.

Your Club Contacts:

General Manager Robert Coppin • Club Chef Denis Groualle

Restaurant Supervisor Linda Sparkes • Bar Manager Sheila Studd

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