

Welcome to our Autumn Update

Welcome to the Autumn 2014 edition of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club Newsletter.

...And welcome to my last letter from the Chair - as my stint as Club Chairman will be completed at the end of the year, and my dashing young successor Stephen Firmin will have taken over by the time the next issue is published.

The last 20 months have absolutely flown by yet it seems only just a few weeks since I moved my few meager possessions into the Chairman's splendid suite of offices in Archdeacon's House.

Since then, despite my far from steady hand on the helm, the Ipswich and Suffolk Club has remained afloat and thanks in no small measure to Robert's prudence and tireless efforts, we have been able to afford to finance not just a refurbishment of the Adam Room, but also a major expansion of the dining room, which is actually under way as I put pen to paper.

This much needed extra capacity will give more members the opportunity to attend functions throughout the year, which will certainly go a long way to address the fact that the vast majority of our functions are very popular indeed and therefore often oversubscribed.

Bigger numbers attending functions also gives Robert the boost he needs to help keep the club in the black, and keep the subscriptions as low as possible for our members.

Behind the scenes, the kitchen expansion has already been completed which means that Denis and his Team have all the resources necessary to make the project a great success - all it requires is for you the members to continue to support our functions so enthusiastically.

The Social Calendar for the next six months has been enclosed with your newsletter and it is brimming with excellent events, but please do remember to be quick off the mark to secure your place.



So this just about concludes my last missive from the chair...

All that remains for me to say is that it has truly been a great privilege to be your Chairman and I am so very grateful for the kindness and support that you have all given me - and that includes the beautiful Chairman's Wife, my talented fellow Directors, our wonderful General Manager, the superb Club Team and lastly but not least, you lot - the magnificent Club Members.

Andy Booth
Chairman



Friends of Christchurch Park

We are delighted to report that The Ipswich and Suffolk Club has become a corporate member of "Friends of Christchurch Park."

This worthy organization was formed in 1998, its stated aim being "to work alongside the park's management and the local council to preserve, protect and improve the park as a place of historic and ecological interest, beauty, tranquility, rest and recreation".

The "Friends" issue a quarterly newsletter, keeping us all up to date with activities and events in the park and at the Magnificent Christchurch Mansion.

Club Members may also wish to visit the excellent website which can be found at www.focp.org.uk

A Note from the Club President

It has been said that one of the tests of a good organisation is the response to a disaster. I believe that recently the Club stood that test and came through with flying colours.

On the day before the Suffolk Show (whilst Robert was in hospital) during a torrential downpour, a blocked downpipe resulted in water pouring in over the Reading Room bay window and the corridor above. The staff responded magnificently catching water, moving furniture, taking down sodden curtains, unblocking drains and still serving lunch!! We are fortunate to be so well looked after.

We have also benefitted this year from the excellent work done by the "greenfingered" Gloria and Bruce Murrill with the shrubs and flowerbeds growing and looking splendid.

In my last note I mentioned that the talk to be given by the Rev Chris Gonin about his father had had to be cancelled through illness. This talk subsequently took place at the May Speaker's Lunch and was particularly interesting as Dr Mervyn Gonin had been a GP in Ipswich and in WW2 a Lt Col. commanding the 11th Light Field Ambulance. Apart from the incredible



work carried out by this unit (supporting tanks in soft sided vehicles,) from D Day to the end of the war he was the first medical officer to be directed to the Belsen concentration camp about which a TV documentary was made. In particular, however, he was a director and chairman of the Club in 1961/62.

I am pleased to say that the other Speaker's Lunches have been well attended and generally appreciated.

Gerry Barnes

From the General Manager's Office

I am absolutely delighted with the success of our last Social Calendar which resulted in almost all events being fully booked.

For this reason we decided to expand our Dining Room facilities which will increase the possible covers from 42 to over 60. Work on this project began in early August in order to be ready for a September launch.

I hope this will satisfy the demand from our high membership level which is very close to full to capacity for the first time in the club's 130 year history.

Trading conditions are still tough with ever increasing pressure on costs which we are constantly reviewing. Even our water bill has increased by a shocking



25% in twelve months. The one element that I will never cut is the level of service as the club is committed to its loyal staff.

I am looking forward to our new development into the Wedding market with our Solemnization of Marriage & Civil Partnership Licence which will work well with the new Dining Room- we even have our first booking already!

Robert Coppin - General Manager.

Ladies' Charity Fashion Show

On 24th April the club once again played host to a wonderful evening of fashion and fundraising. Rachel's Boutique of Hadleigh presented an exciting collection of Spring/Summer fashions and delightful accessories were provided by Maureen Gerber.

I am thrilled to report that just under £1000 was raised for the Papworth Trust, our highest total yet. My sincere thanks go to all those who came along to support the event and to Rosemary Holley for her invaluable assistance and work in organizing the raffle.

Our next fashion show will be on 6th November when we will be welcoming back Rachel and Maureen to present their Autumn/Winter collections. Tickets remain priced at £30 which includes welcome drink, canapés, a two course meal with wine and a donation to the Iceni Project. This excellent charity offers indispensable support to families in Ipswich and Suffolk and



aims to promote a safe, happy and healthy childhood. A range of services and initiatives are offered by the project to help those raising the next generation of children and facing the problems of addiction, abuse and deprivation.

Please do come along and welcome in the new season and help support an exceptional local charity.

Carole Booth.



Bridge Club

At the half-year point 18 members have qualified for entry to the Bridge Trophy competition with 12 others who will qualify within the next two months. Lesley Norton is currently in first position with Jean Lusher in second and Don Betts a very close third.

In April this year we welcomed Sam Wilson and Guy Hartfall into the club, who are now regular partners. I hope they are both enjoying their bridge with us.

So far this year we have had an average of 6.5 tables, so we can still accommodate two more pairs who would like to play competitive but friendly bridge on a Tuesday morning.

Finally I would like to thank the staff particular Dave who prepares the room for our bridge and Sheila, Caroline, Jackie and Linda for preparing the most important part of the bridge morning, the tea, coffee and biscuits.

Steve Croucher

On the Fabric Front...

As you may be aware Robert decided to take a sickie for the first time just as we had a flood from the roof.

This resulted in the upstairs corridor, Reading Room and reception areas flooding, with a resulting ongoing insurance claim.

As you can see we are in full swing with the Dining Room expansion which we have agreed with the builders to finish end of August. Work is still in progress on the upgraded kitchen with new ovens etc to ensure it can cope with the increase in Dining Room numbers. After these works we will then replace the roof on the Dining Room which will have upgraded insulation.

Our next much needed development will be in the Bar area which can get very hot on function evenings. Air conditioning for the winter months will be installed and we will try our hardest to obtain Listed Building and Planning Permission to replace the two large windows with opening French Style windows for the summer months.

Richard Hawkins.

New Honorary Life Member



We are delighted to report that former Chairman Maurice Vinden has been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club in recognition of his long membership and past work as a Director of the Club.

Maurice, who celebrates his 95th birthday in September has been a club member for over half a century and took on the role of Club Chairman in both 1980 and 1986.

During the war Maurice fought for his country and was interned by the Japanese as a Prisoner Of War. Despite this, on being released in 1945, he returned to Suffolk to pursue a highly successful career in the timber business at William Brown and Co until his retirement in the 1980's.

Maurice now joins a select band of just three other Honorary Life Members and we all look forward to seeing more of him the years to come.

Snooker and Billiards News

The Winter 2013/14 Competitions were completed on the Finals Evening on 1st May 2014 and the results were:

Competition	Winner/s	Runner/s up
Snooker Open	D.G.Tuckwell	S.L.Johnston
Snooker Handicap	R.M.Alexander	J.B.Cook
Norman Baynes Billiards	M.W.Devitt	J.B.Cook
Claude West Snooker	M.W.Devitt	A.E.Williams
Taylor Centenary Tankards	B.F.Clarke & P.S.J.Shepherd	B.F.Tenwick & P.Thorndyke

Congratulations to all and thanks to our Chairman, Andy Booth for presenting the prizes and also to the referees, Messrs Croucher, Harmer, Jackson and Marjason. They do an excellent job.

A sweepstake for the Snooker Handicap was held successfully although did not prove to be of interest to anybody other than the active snooker playing members. It has been decided to repeat it for this year's Competition. The entry forms Winter 2014/15 competitions will



**Club Snooker Open Champion 2014
David Tuckwell**



Bob Alexander receives the Snooker Handicap Trophy

be on the notice board from early August and there is a competition for all levels of ability – please do enter.

Earlier this year I was approached by the Snooker Captain of the United Club, Guernsey, one of our Affiliated Clubs, with an offer to play an annual snooker match, home and away in alternate years. This has evolved into a combined snooker and golf match for eight members of each Club, six of whom also play golf. The first meeting will be at the Ipswich & Suffolk Club on the last weekend in October and the golf will be at Cretingham Golf Club on the Saturday. We continue to welcome all Members, irrespective of ability, to join us. Several Members are at the Club on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. This summer as an experiment, we are playing snooker instead of Volunteer on Tuesday evenings for the months of May to August inclusive and this has attracted some additional interest. - just turn up between 5.00 and 8.00 pm (we play until about 9.00pm).

David Green



..and Jim Barr wins the Sweepstake

Pimlott Foundation Speakers Lunch

Earlier this year I was privileged to host the May speakers lunch when we received a fascinating insight in to the work of the Pimlott Foundation.

The Foundation was established in 2007 in memory of Steven Pimlott OBE. He was a highly respected and successful international theatre and opera director at the time of his tragically early death.

The Foundation's aim is to bring together aspiring young performers with professionals and promote concerts and live events. Much of their good work takes place in local

schools bringing classical music to young people.

A very fluent Helen Thorne delivered a splendid illustrated lecture and this was accompanied by two soloists: Daniela Betchly, soprano (Steven's widow) with Kim Haan on the oboe.

As a footnote the Foundation is producing the Opera Hansel and Gretel in Spring 2015 and we hope to run a trip to the Mercury Theatre, Colchester in support.

**Pauline Young
Vice President.**



Golf News

I am very sorry to report that our team lost our match in April against the might of Colchester Garrison! We managed only one win, one halved match and two matches lost, but a good day was had by all.

In May our match against the Bury Farmers at Flemnpton was also a close run game, quite wet and reduced to a 9 hole match which we also lost – we really must try harder next time.

The Northgate Knockout Trophy is now well under way and we are now looking forward to the main event of the Club golfing calendar, the Annual Club Golf Day when on Wednesday 3rd September we will compete for the coveted Barnard Trophy.

As always the day will comprise 18 holes at Purdis followed by a meal and prize giving at the Ipswich & Suffolk Club.

Please put your name down on the sporting notice board or email me at a@allangosling.com as all must register in advance in order to play.

We are also encouraging members to invite one guest, so do please bring a golfing friend out for a treat.

Yours In Golf, Allan Gosling

Don't miss the
Ipswich & Suffolk Club's
**Annual
Golf Day**

Wednesday 3rd Sept

18 holes at the superb
Ipswich (Purdis Heath)
Golf Club and dinner
afterwards at the Club

Guests are welcome

Please contact :
Allan Gosling at
a@allangosling.com
or sign up on the
Club notice board

Recent Club Events

In recent months, there have been a large number of highly successful events held at the Club.



Call My Bluff Wine Tasting



Speakers Lunch



Turkish Wine Tasting



From the Vine Committee!

Our *Call My Bluff* wine tasting, on the 21 Feb, was a sell out and as usual, great fun. Nobody cared that most of the educated guess-work was off the mark by the end of the evening!

The Turkish Delight evening in April was also well received. The wines were much better than we expected from a little researched region, and went very well with the authentic Turkish style food that chef served. Much enjoyed!

Finally in June we had the seasonal Champagne and Strawberries evening which had a very bubbly attendance.

Coming up we are visiting our colonial cousins in USA in September, and your wine committee have already been on the case and can promise you some great wines. This will be followed in early November with our ever popular Vintage Wine Tasting evening which focuses on wine from exceptional years.

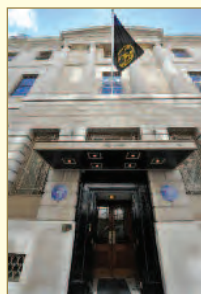
Finally, in February, we will re-run the members' wine selection evening. This will give you the opportunity to taste numerous wines and vote for their inclusion on our club wine list.

Book early to ensure a seat and stay in training!!

Bruce Murrill.

Reciprocal clubs

You will all know that over the years we have extended our reciprocal arrangements with clubs - but I for one have not as yet had the opportunity to attend many of these fine institutions.



However, I just happened to be invited to the Lansdowne Club recently and on the visit, whilst I was a guest of one of the members, I was happily reminded that of course I had reciprocal rights at the club.

And what a fine club it is. Very pleasant surroundings, fantastic facilities and to cap it all, for those of you that are regular travellers to London, rooms are available for an overnight stay right in the middle of Mayfair!

So next time you go up to town, why not ask Robert for an introduction and visit the Lansdowne yourself?

Keith Ferguson

Read All About It!

The Book Club is currently taking its summer break and will reconvene in September when we will be catching up on each other's summer reads, and recommending the books we have particularly enjoyed.

Our programme is posted on the Club noticeboard and we meet on the first Wednesday of each month with everyone being most welcome to join us.

However, our November meeting will be moved to Thursday as on the 6th of the month we are delighted to be welcoming Tom Williams, author of *Ma Petite Rosette*, who will talk about preparing, writing and publishing his book, at what promises to be a sell-out Speaker's Lunch.

Happy Reading!

Mary Gaskin



We welcome the following new members...

Mr John Bareham, Mr John Rumsby, Mr Andrew & Sarah Swallow, Mrs Louise Chittock, Mr Victor & Virginia Gray, Mr Philip & Anne Jones, Mr Anthony Loynes, Mr Geoffrey & Rita Drake, Mrs Judith Gant, Mrs Jill Stredwick, Mr George Ridgway, Mrs Prema Fairburn-Dorai, Mr Gregory Flatt, Bishop David Thompson, Mrs Kirsty Parker, Mr Edward Powell, Mrs Jill Fox, Mr Desmond & Mandy Cunningham, Mr Richard Bertram, Miss Emma Cousins, Mr James Tucker, Mr Nicholas Banks, Mrs Susan Wright, Mr William Hartfall