



## A final word from your outgoing Chairman...

**Outgoing but not quite gone (as yet). Whilst this is my last contribution to the Club newsletter, I continue in office until the end of this year. I am fairly confident that I will see out my final months in office, but then again that is probably what David Cameron was thinking a few weeks ago.**

The erudite and experienced Richard Hawkins takes the helm for 2017 – adding the responsibilities of Chairman

to his existing brief of overseeing the important programme of refurbishments and improvements at the Club. I see from his contribution to this newsletter that Richard is currently in the south of France (again) but I am reliably informed that Board Meetings will not have to take place via Skype under his watch.

The first few months of this year have continued to be busy for the Club, with a good variety of well supported events including, in particular, the very successful Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration Dinner: an evening short on live corgis but long on entertaining company. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the evening a success.

As usual, Robert has worked very hard to produce a Social Calendar of excellent events for the next six months. Do remember to be quick off the mark to secure your places, as many events do get booked up very quickly (even allowing for the increased capacity we now have for some of them).

The Club, like many other organisations,

has faced some challenges over the last couple of years and there are no doubt more to come in the future. But a solid financial base has been retained which has enabled refurbishment and expansion of facilities to run forward. This, coupled with the enthusiasm and support so many of you give the Club, has enabled it to continue to flourish during times when many similar organisations are fading away.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Chair, and it has been a privilege to have occupied the 'hot seat'. I am extremely grateful to my fellow directors, Robert and his excellent team and to the many members who have been so kind and supportive, and who give up so much of their time to ensure we have a vibrant and successful Club. I confess to having been rather nervous about overseeing the day to day operations of the Club when my two year stint commenced, but you have enabled it to be very pleasant experience.

**Stephen Firmin**  
*Chairman*

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

Wednesday  
7th September

## A Note from the President

**The highlight of the last half year's Social Calendar was surely the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration Dinner, of which more is mentioned in the Chairman's Farewell above.**

This followed the principle of earlier celebratory dinners for the Queen's Golden Jubilee on 31 May and 1 June 2002.

In fact in 2002 there were two dinners on successive nights, and a copy of the menu of the first night hangs in the Dining Room to the left of the door.

The Speakers Lunches have been well supported and enjoyed with most interesting speakers and subjects. External visits to the Debach Museum and the Museum of East Anglian Life were made following the talks. It was especially pleasing that three of the speakers were Club members and we are duly grateful to John Lilley, John Haresnape and Mark Sargeantson.

My thanks are due to the Vice-President, Pauline Young, for her support and for standing in for me when I was unavailable.

**Gerry Barnes**

P.S. Members will be delighted to hear that I am receiving more training on the use of the microphone!!





## From the General Manager's Office

**We have without doubt had a busy summer season, due in part to the increasing levels of "event trade", which we are actively promoting in order to bolster our club finances. These have included a wide range of social events from christening parties through to weddings, anniversary celebrations and retirement events.**

In fact, almost every significant milestone celebration has been catered for at the club and all appear to have been much enjoyed by those attending.

Thanks to all those of you who placed their faith in the club team, members of which I am delighted to report have proved enthusiastic, hard working and professional throughout.

Better still, members will be able to see the results of this support in the subscription rates that have been held at the 2015/2016 level.

The Club's Queen Elizabeth Birthday Dinner, held on 11th June, was a high point of the season with all the technology working to great effect supporting our excellent speaker Mark Mitchells.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to all the officers of the Club attending that night as they played a big part in making the evening such a great success.

As you all know I am very hands-on and took this to another level when I decided to build yet another crystal chandelier (the 3rd) over the main stairs. It took months of planning from placing the order with suppliers in Edinburgh & Czechoslovakia and was to say the least, somewhat nerve-racking as I sat with safety strap on a scaffold 24' over the stairwell, with legs dangling putting together the biggest crystal jigsaw ever imagined. I will keep you all posted on my next adventure.

The biggest news moving forward is our change to club vouchers. Now you have all year to use the vouchers which are split into lunch only and lunch/events. This should give a more even spend across the business and I trust you will support this initiative going into our busy winter period.

*Robert Coppin*

## Textit !

**At the end of this financial year I shall be retiring as a Director of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club, having served as a Director since 1989.**

The editor has kindly asked me to write a few words about my time on the Board, having described my leaving in the current parlance as a "Textit".

Much has changed during that period as indeed it had to for the Club to survive and indeed to be in such a healthy position as it now is.

Sadly four of the Directors with whom I served, namely John Hughes, Maurice Vinden, John Bright and Eric McCoy, are no longer with us, but they were indeed very influential and imposing figures during their membership of the Club,

In those days as indeed now, the Directors were provided with a dinner once a year as a thank you from the Club for their work during the year. John Hughes was the Chairman for my first dinner and I clearly remember that before we went down to dinner we assembled in the Adam Room for pre-dinner drinks, none of your fancy prosecco in those days, dry sherry was then the order of the day!

I remember that my walk downstairs to the dining room was to say the least a slightly unsteady one and feeling that I should, on my first appearance put up a good show, I determined to concentrate for the rest of the evening.

Unfortunately my plan went somewhat wrong when the aforementioned sherry was produced by John Hughes as an excellent addition to the consommé which in those days was the standard starter for our dinners.

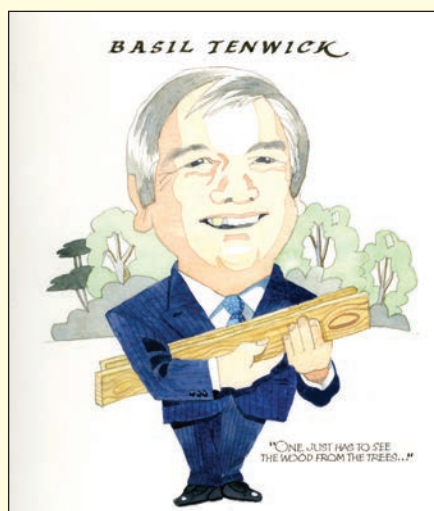
Board meetings were on the first Tuesday of each month and when the meeting was over the directors would adjourn to the bar and snooker room. It

may interest current snooker players to know that in those days members playing in the snooker room had to vacate it at 7.00pm in order that the Directors could play - how times have changed!

I have enjoyed enormously my time as a Director, it has been a great privilege to have been on the Board and to have been party to some of the major decisions taken by the Club, perhaps most notably the introduction of lady members. Harold Page was the keenest of advocates for this to come about and we should be grateful to him for his far sightedness in proposing this idea.

We have a Board of highly qualified people who all have the best interests of the club at heart, and I am sure that in their hands we can all look forward to a most prosperous and exciting future for the Ipswich and Suffolk Club.

I shall continue to be a regular user of the Club (hopefully for many years) it is a most wonderful place. Looking through the Chairman's report from 1990 I see that his last sentence reads "In conclusion, may I make one last plea, please use the Club's facilities." If I may, I will ask you all to do the same.



**The Ipswich & Suffolk Club warmly welcomes the following new members to the Club:**

- Mr Jack Taylor (returning member)**
- Mrs Elizabeth Cotton (returning member)**
- Dr Mairi Warnock**
- Mr Richard Blackburn & Heather Turner**

## New Ipswich & Suffolk Club Members

- Mr John Cooke**
- Mr David & Valarie Layte**
- Mrs Elizabeth Harsant**
- Mr Philip & Christina Elder**
- Mr Trevor Mitchell**
- Mr Martin Banwell**
- Mr Paul Harvey**
- Mr Robert & Patricia Dawkins**
- Reverends Alan & Catherine Forsdike**



# Snooker and Billiards News

The Winter 2015/16 competitions were completed on the Finals Evening on 30th April and the results were as follows:

Competition	Winner/s	Runner/s Up
Snooker Open	Mr D. G. Tuckwell	Mr A. F. Lilley
Snooker Handicap	Mr G. T. Ridgway	Mr A. F. Lilley
Norman Baynes Billiards	Mr D. G. Tuckwell	Mr A. F. Lilley
Claude West Snooker	Mr A. F. Lilley	Mr J. A. Marjason
Taylor Centenary Tankards	Mr P. S. J. Shepherd & Mr B. E. Clarke	Mr D. J. Green & Mr D. Parkinson

Congratulations to all who participated especially to Arthur Lilley who managed to qualify for all four Finals. He was very tired!

Our thanks also go to our Chairman, Stephen Firmin, for presenting the prizes and also to Messrs McLellan, Harmer, and Marjason for acting as referees. As usual they did an excellent job.

The entry forms for the Winter 2016/17 competitions will be on the notice board from early August and there is a competition for all levels of ability – please do enter.



David Green shakes hands with George McLellan and the Chairman.



George Ridgway collecting the Snooker Handicap Trophy.

For those lady members who might be interested in playing snooker, Sarah Swallow is organising a monthly “lesson” on a Thursday. If you are interested please contact her for further details.

Finally, all gentleman members are welcome to join us for regular informal snooker evenings on every Tuesday throughout the year. Play starts at 5.30pm and continues until 9.00 pm. If you are interested then please come along at any time during the evening and we will be very pleased to see you.

*Allan Williams*

## Golf News

This year's fixture against the Colchester Garrison at Purdis was a very close match indeed. The format was Hambro scoring with 4 teams which meant that 72 holes were played in total. Unfortunately we lost by just one hole.

A new golfing event in June was played at Cretingham Golf Club, courtesy of owner and I&S Club member Neil Jackson.

A total of 14 golfers took part including five lady players. We were lucky with the weather, the golf was good and we all had an excellent meal afterwards back at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club.

Sadly our annual match against the Bury Farmers Club was cancelled as they were unable to make up a team.

The Northgate Knockout Trophy is now well under way.

We are now looking forward to our golf day of just 15 holes at Purdis



(regrettably three holes out of action due to bunker renovation) on Wednesday 7th September, where we will compete for the Barnard Trophy, followed by a meal and prize giving at our Club. To enter, players must register either by putting their name down on the sporting notice board or emailing me at a@allangosling.com. We are also allowing one guest per member so do please bring a golfing friend out for a treat.

Yours In Golf  
*Allan Gosling*



## Scrabble

A huge thank you to all those members that have supported the Scrabble club since it began nearly two years ago. I am delighted to say that it has now become a regular monthly meeting and that it continues to go from strength to strength.

We “Scrabblers” meet at the club on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm in the bar (January excepted) then sit down to a hot supper at 7.00pm. A draw is made for the first opponent then three games of forty minutes each follow.

ALL abilities can play and ALL are most welcome, even if only to come to watch and see what happens.

It is a lovely social evening – and is as taxing as you want it to be!

*Sarah Swallow*

## On the Fabric Front...

Once again part of the fabric team is in the south of France on a fact finding trip for ideas and possible improvements to the club. Nothing significant to report yet but the search continues!

Back at the club we will shortly be commencing the improvements to the first floor cloakroom and loo.

We are also proposing to convert the old coach house currently used as a garage and store into an office suite. Plans are being prepared and will shortly be submitted to the council for approval. The works will include dry lining and insulation of the walls and roof. The existing floor is to be grubbed up and relaid, incorporating insulation and underfloor heating. It is hoped that the works will be completed during the autumn. Any Club member wishing to rent this office suite should contact Robert.

*Richard Hawkins*

## New Club Board of Directors appointment

We are delighted to report that George McLellan has accepted an invitation to join the board of directors of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club.

Long-standing Ipswich resident George is a family man with three grown up children and is a recently retired local businessman, a long-standing Rotarian and an excellent golfer.

His enthusiasm for club events has been clearly demonstrated over his 15 years' membership during which time he has been a frequent attender of evening functions and a regular snooker player and organizer of club snooker competitions.



The Chairman and Directors have unanimously expressed their delight in welcoming George to the Board of Directors and look forward to enjoying the benefits of his experience and practical knowledge for years to come.



**Ideal spring and summer weather conditions this year have made the Club garden blooming marvellous!**



## From the Wine Committee...

The Wine Committee has met to work on the program for the next six months and we hope there is something there for all tastes!

In September we propose to combine two popular events and marry a seafood evening with carefully selected wines to complement the dishes.

November sees the return of our ever popular Call My Bluff wine tasting with the inimitable Charles, from supplier Nethergate Wines.

In February we will attempt to blow away all those winter blues and take you back to your youth.

A Retro 70's food evening, will be accompanied by the wines you should have been drinking. Instead of Mateus Rose and Liebfraumilch we will find something much better to drink with your prawn cocktail, mixed grill and Black Forest gateau, or similar!!

**Book early!**



## Bridge Club

Our Bridge Club continues to thrive with an average of five to seven tables per session. What would happen if all members turned up on one Tuesday is the stuff of my occasional nightmare!

The atmosphere is competitive but friendly and it is very pleasing to see the progress of certain players. I can think of one lady who, when she first began playing with us, would always put her

husband into a contract, as she had not the confidence to play it herself. Now try and stop her being declarer!

The most significant feature of the last six months has been the sterling work by Steph Mallett in taking over the running the club in my enforced absence which is the result of some minor health issues. Although not a full club member, she has thrown herself into the role heart and soul and has done sterling work in organising, directing, and making sure that I

received the travellers to complete the scoring. Not only do I owe her a huge debt of gratitude but also all those who have been able to continue playing on Tuesdays.

I am reliably informed that discipline and silence have been much better regulated on her watch! There is no such thing as an ex-teacher!

Finally, I think we all still miss dear Steve Croucher.

*Tim Hedley*