



2007/08 Club Chairman, Richard Hawkins

News from the High Chair . . .

At the recent AGM the accounts for 2007 were approved. I am please to report that financially there was a huge improvement on the previous year's income and a good surplus was recorded. Much of the additional income has been achieved by an increase in the numbers of functions being held and my thanks go to our general manager, Robert Coppin, for all his hard work.

At the meeting Harold Page proposed that any director serving more than 25 years should be given honorary membership and I am pleased to report that the board approved this.

As for other news, we have suffered a couple of 'break-ins' recently and you may notice some increased security at the club.

Also the board recently approved a new 'non-parking' membership which I am sure will be of interest to those living close to the club and to non-drivers.

I am now half way through my two year stint as Chairman and feel that there is a good spirit at the club and that we will now continue to grow in strength.

Finally I look forward to seeing some of you at one of the exciting social events being organised during the summer

From the Club President

The social events during the last months have been pretty well attended and largely enjoyed by members present with many of our older established annual events continue to prove very popular.

These include the Trafalgar Day Dinner, where this year our guest speaker was Surgeon Commander J B Gill who proposed the Toast to the "Immortal Memory"; the Chairman's Cocktail Party; the Annual Members Dinner, where the guest speaker was Michael Cole, and those attending could judge the carving abilities of three of the Directors!; the Burns Night is yet to come as I write.

However there are two new innovations which I hope will become Annual events, namely the Christmas Carol Service exclusively for the Club members and their guests and the Gourmet Taste of Anglia Dinner.

The Carol Service had been

arranged by Robert with Canon Peter Townley at St Mary le Tower Church and was much enjoyed by those attending, possibly aided by the hot punch prior to leaving for the church. The buffet supper following gave us the opportunity to thank Peter Townly and send him off with our very best wishes to his new appointment as Archdeacon at Pontefract, (a Lancastrian preaching to the Yorkshire folk)!! Peter's membership of the club will be sadly missed by myself and and I am sure, many of my fellow members.

The Taste of Anglia Dinner also won great plaudits and we were grateful to Denis who produced this splendid five course meal largely unaided.

If any members have suggestions for future events, the Social Committee, in which the Vice President, Pauline Young engages, is always delighted to receive them through Club Manager Robert.



Club Vice President, Pauline Young and President Gerry Barnes

Spanish wine tasting hits the spot

Friday February the 8th saw another sell-out Wine Tasting being hosted by our wine committee at the Club.

Those attending were treated to an interesting selection of Cava, White Rioja, Valdepenas, Red Rioja and (pudding wine), all bar one of which (a particularly nasty '98 Marques De Murrieta) seemed to go down well with the assembled.

French Chef Denis excelled himself once again, producing a fine selection of Tapas and a magnificent Paella that would have put any Spanish restaurant to shame.

Melvyn Eke and Andy Booth gave brief presentations on each of the wines and Club Chairman Richard Hawkins, (full to the brim with Rioja and consequently the milk of human kindness) felt moved to express his gratitude on behalf of the assembled at the end of the evening.

Members can look forward to more events throughout the year, first of which will be the summer Champagne and Strawberries evening on Friday July 4th.



Manager's report . . .

We have now finished the redecoration within the club reception with the same colour and intricate detail as the recently refurbished Adam Room Stair area, and have achieved our main goal of drawing the entrance lobby into the same area as the reception.

We have also removed and hidden some of the "institutional additions" that have appeared over the years to now make the entrance far more elegant.

As a result of this work the whole entrance to the club compliments the rest of the building.

We are now in the final negotiations with builders to start work in the bar area after obtaining full planning and listed building consent. We trust this work within the bar will start soon along with further refurbishment of other items in the bar.

Work is also progressing with a new staff changing and rest room that the staff desperately need. This work is critical to the development of the club if we wish to expand our facilities to members as we will require more staff to service members needs.

Major works are now planned for the club kitchen. This will involve a new extraction unit to cut the smells that can linger within the club, plus removal of all the tiles to be replaced with a more hygienic plastic surface and works to remove damp.

Further work to the kitchen is planned for the next three years by which time we hope to have totally refurbished the whole kitchen.

The last batch of new dining room chairs have been delivered and dining room tables are now in the final stages of development regarding sizes and will soon be covered with a cushion layer that will give you a quality feel.

We have a new assistant Chef Paul who has worked at Harrods in London who decided that working with Denis would improve his culinary skills. Please

introduce yourself to him as he is very keen to get to know you all.

The club is in great shape due to your support over the past six months. Our joint efforts in developing the social calendar have proved highly successful and I look forward to new ideas from you all. The response from my last email on ideas for the social calendar was a great success, please keep up the good work.

Private functions from members are of particular interest to us all in the staff team as we enjoy working on your celebrations and feel that assisting with the event is a great honour. Thank you to all that have trusted us with your special event.

Please keep your eye open for the next social calendar as I will always push the boundaries and try new and exiting ideas.

Finally, on a more disturbing note, I have to report that we have recently suffered two attempted burglaries. Please be aware of others in the club and report anything/anybody unusual to a member of staff. Extra security measures are being introduced including enhanced security at the main entrance.

I am sure you will understand that any changes will only be made to ensure the security of the club and its members.



The Club's new assistant chef, Paul

Snooker update

The Winter Knockout Competitions are proceeding well with matches generally played on time. When arranging your matches, please do remember to check the diary.

The Autumn 2008 Cooper Tankards Competition was won by Lewis Johnston and Bryan Spurgeon – congratulations. The Autumn Matches resulted in wins against Ipswich 41 Club, Ipswich East Rotary Club and The President's Men. We lost to Ipswich Golf Club and The Directors (purely diplomatic, of course!).

Bury Farmers Club with whom we have had a fixture using a twelve player each format for many decades, have asked us for an additional fixture but on the format we use for the above matches with eight players each. They hope to start a similar programme themselves - this match will be on Thursday September 25th 2008. The complete programme is on the notice board outside the Bar.



We have welcomed several new snooker playing Members in recent months, two having gone straight into the "owe" category of handicap. This can only help to improve the standard of play for all of us and with the increased interest that is prevailing in respect of Club snooker generally, things auger well for the future.

Tuesday evenings are the ideal opportunity to improve our snooker. All are welcomed and assured of at least two frames (usually more) with play starting around 6.00pm until 9.00ish. Thursday evenings (other than Match days) continue but really do need more support – ideal for those who feel they need more practice prior to competing in matches.

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

A very British Club

The latest club to join the impressive list that offer reciprocal benefits to our members is The British Club of Bangkok.

Set in its magnificent clubhouse in the heart of the city, the club offers a focal point for British expatriates who are visiting the city and provides a convenient escape from the bustle of Bangkok city life.

The club boasts excellent sporting facilities, gardens, first class restaurants and regular social activities.

So if you are planning that special trip to this fascinating city, don't forget to arrange your introduction in advance through Robert Coppin then look forward to enjoying a pink gin in colonial style splendour.



Outgoing Club Golf captain Bill Turnbull with Allan Gosling

Club golf

First a big thank you to Bill Turnbull for all his hard work and effort in arranging golf for us over the past years. He has done a great job and we are most thankful.

For 2008, our own club knock out competition for the Northgate Trophy, the list is now up on the Notice Board cost to enter £3.00. The draw will take place late March. Last years winner was Peter Moss with Norman Conder as runner up.

A team of 12 will do battle against the Colchester Garrison on 16th April at Purdis, 9 am start, then we will eat at the Ipswich & Suffolk Club. If you wish to be in the team please contact me. The Ipswich & Suffolk Club were last years winners.

Contact has been made with Bury Farmers, the match will be an afternoon at the Bury St Edmunds Golf Club or Flempton Golf Club. We expect this to be held in June 2008 but a date has not been given to us yet.

To finish our year we have the club annual match day at Purdis at the end of September or early October. Last years winner was Andy Booth, second Andy Penkethman, third Richard Pease, Front 9 Steven Sheldrake and Back 9 Richard Dewar. Winner of the Rabbits was Chris Petitt.

Any good ideas of away days or of how to improve our Golf Days will be welcome. We hope for an enjoyable and successful 2008.

Allan Gosling - Golf Captain

No parking

If you object to paying for the privilege of using the car park yet never do then read on...

The Board of Directors has now approved a new membership category for non-parkers.

This offers a significant discount yet with all the other benefits of membership.

Further details are available from our Manager Robert.

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 Trafalgar Day and most recently the Club's Burns' Night celebrations.

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



Trafalgar Day Dinner

19th October 2007

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



Burn's Night

25th January 2008

A tradition in the Club's social calendar.



Social Events

Alan Smith (left) demonstrated his skills and talked about the work of NAFAS, meanwhile, Quiz night November 2007 (right) - somebody has to come last and still win a prize.



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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