

Cheery news from the Chair...

A very Happy New Year to all members! 2011 ended in some style with Archdeacon House being a hive of festive activity during December with a constant stream of events all of which were very ably and efficiently managed by Robert and his team.

The sense of Christmas spirit was also very evident at both the Annual Members Dinner and the Christmas Carol service with both events attracting record numbers. The high attendance to the Carol Service resulted in the Club being able to donate £635 to Church funds.

I am very pleased to say that the New Year has started well with January also scheduled to be a busy month for functions. In addition to regular events such as Burns Night, a very successful inaugural Pudding Evening has been held and I am sure that this calorific feast will be repeated in future years.

The current high levels of activity in the Club with both a high and active membership are also being reflected in the financial performance. As the latest financial accounts for the Club showed, we enjoyed a similar level of profitability to recent years in 2011 and have been able to further strengthen the Balance Sheet so that we can confidently continue with our current strategy of making on-going improvements to facilities. Upgrades scheduled for early 2012



Club Chairman, Martin Wood

include refurbishment of the garage roof, further enhancement to the Tower Street garden area and re-commissioning of the rear entry door linking to the Tower Street car park area.

As ever, I would encourage you to look at the new social calendar accompanying this newsletter and to seek to book early for any functions that you would like to

attend. Once again, a varied and interesting programme has been planned for the next six month period. The social calendar has grown greatly in recent years, not just in terms of events staged but also in terms of the numbers attending, and I am sure it is a key contributor to the success that the Club is currently enjoying.

Amidst the general economic gloom that we have to confront on a daily basis, it is worth remembering that 2012 will include some very special events in UK. In addition to the Olympics (which I guess most of us will watch on television given the difficulty in getting tickets), there will also be the opportunity in June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We plan to hold a very special Diamond dinner in June to commemorate the event and early booking is likely to be essential for what we expect will be a very popular one-off event.

I have had the great pleasure of meeting many members over the last twelve months and I hope that I can meet many more during my final year as Chairman. However, if any member would like to contact me directly on any matter please feel free to do so by emailing me at martingwood@hotmail.com

Martin Wood
Chairman

President's Notes

Most of the Club activities since September have been well supported with interesting speakers at the monthly lunch and enjoyable evening events.

The Annual Members Dinner and the Club Carol Service had record attendances and Sheila's Christmas Draw was also, I believe, a record with last minute additional prizes having to be obtained.

Once again our thanks to those members and staff, too many to mention individually, who worked to ensure success. I must however pick out some special moments. Two directors, Standley Gaskin and Bruce Murrill, gave a great exhibition of carving the turkeys on the sideboard at the Annual Dinner and managed to provide our Vice President, Pauline Young, with an extra wing (I do not think anyone asked for a parson's nose!).

Perhaps another year it should be competitive and they should be judged as to who is the champion carver, rules to be determined. The fifth Club Carol Service arranged and conducted by our members Charles Jenkin, the Vicar, Michael Nicholas, the Director of Music, and Giles Brightwell, the Organist, was again a delight; not to mention the throat lubricant produced by Robert beforehand.

It is pleasing to note that some of the activities supported charities including Age UK Suffolk and St Mary Le Tower Church. Special mention should be made of our lady members and their friends led by Carole Booth, the Vice-Chairman's wife, who, after their earlier success in raising funds for Help for Heroes, held a successful and happy Charity Fayre in December in support of Save the Children.

Gerry Barnes – Club President

From the Wine Committee

The club Wine Tasting events continue to be very popular evenings, as witnessed by full house attendances at our NZ evening in September, and our Vintage Wines evening in November. The February 'Call My Bluff' evening was also sold out.

In your new social calendar, early booking is advised if you would like to join us for the 'Iberian Experience' in April or, one of your favourite evenings, the 'Champagne and Strawberries' evening in July.



Keep taking the medicine!!

From the General Manager...



Thank you for your support during the past six months and I trust that our new Social Calendar of events will further entice you.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of booking ASAP if an event catches your eye. However, please be aware that if you do book an event and then cancel, we may need to levy a cancellation fee if we find we cannot fill the vacant seats.

As usual we have been busy refurbishing the internal club areas which we hope will enhance your enjoyment. Further planned improvements include changes to the garden in front of the clubhouse on the Tower Street side that will show off our magnificent building to its best and new Northgate Street vehicle and pedestrian access gates. We are also about to embark on the development of our redundant buildings into office space which will provide us with another source of income.

Sadly after 16 years loyal service we have to say goodbye to Tina who retires at the end of February. Tina will be missed by many as she willingly worked as Cleaner, Waitress, Barmaid, Coffee Assistant, (I'm sure I've missed something) and always with a smile. The staff will lose a trusted hardworking colleague but we are happy that Tina will stay a friend, and will call in to take coffee with us whenever she is in Town.

Robert Coppin - Club General Manager

Tina retires after 16 years

Long-serving employee Tina Fleming retires at the end of February after sixteen years service to the club in a variety of roles.

Tina looks forward to spending more time with her family and relations in Canada.

We would all like to wish Tina a long and happy retirement.



Reciprocal Clubs... The Western Australia Club

One of the features of membership of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club is the opportunity to visit reciprocal Clubs both in the UK and across the world.

Club members Dr Peter Funnell and Dr Sharon Goddard recently visited the Western Australia Club in Perth, Western Australia - here is what they said:

"The WA Club, as its known is located within the main business district of Perth. It was founded in 1893 and offers a welcome and sophisticated calm in the centre of a cosmopolitan city known as the most remote capital in the world. The WA Club has been an integral part of the commercial, business and political activity of the State of Western Australia since its formation and has had many distinguished members both past and present. The WA Club prides itself on customer service and hospitality and we certainly enjoyed both during our visit in December.

A letter of introduction from Robert encouraged Judith Darlington, the WA Club General Manager to offer a warm welcome prior to our visit and her staff



served us with a delicious lunch. After lunch we had a brief tour of the Club and enjoyed an hour reading the papers and viewing the fine art show in the well furnished members lounge.

We enjoyed our visit and will certainly look for opportunities to visit other Clubs through the reciprocal arrangement in the future."

St Paul's Birmingham

St Paul's Club is Birmingham's oldest club founded in 1859.

Originally a club in the classic gentleman's sense and although it still subscribes to some of those traditional values, the club is now truly a cosmopolitan and modern organisation for both men and women.

Conveniently situated within a mile of Birmingham City Centre, the club offers relaxation and fine home cooking for



business and professional people in a unique atmosphere of comfort and genial fellowship.

Golf news

Our Annual golf day at Purdis in September was attended by 24 Members and four guests (possible members) the highest number taking part for quite a few years.

The winner on the day of the Barnard Cup was George McLellan with Andy Booth second and Stephen Sheldrake third. A good meal by Denis and prize giving ended a good day.

The winner of the Northgate Trophy our Annual golf knockout competition was Keith Ferguson who beat Bruce Murrill.

At this moment of time we are in touch with both Colchester Garrison and Bury Farmers for dates for this year's matches, teams for these will be needed.

Very Best Wishes for a good golfing year.

Allan Gosling



Captain of golf Alan Gosling present Barnard Cup winners' prizes.



Keith Ferguson receives the Northgate trophy from runner-up Bruce Murrill.

From the Vice President

I look back on a very successful Autumn and Winter social programme at the club.

Starting in November we had two very good lunches with speakers from local organisations.

First was Cancer Campaign Suffolk, complete with a 'hands on' session which had the sadly small but nevertheless wrapt audience in fits of laughter, but all in a serious cause.

The following week we had not one but two speakers from the Ipswich Orchestral Society which was celebrating 109 years of concerts in Ipswich.

The Christmas Charity Fayre organised most successfully by Carole Booth made a grand total of over £600 for Save the Children fund. Carole would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make the event such a great success.

The Annual dinner was attended by a record number of members; Denis and his team did us proud and it was great to have the carving of the turkeys by directors reinstated!

Again another record attendance of 145 members, families and guests at the annual Carol Service at St. Mary le Tower. The congregation included Maurice Vinden, who at 92 years of age is one of our oldest members and Bernard Hine's two month old granddaughter who must be one of our youngest guests ever! The service was followed by an excellent buffet and mulled wine, certainly an evening to remember.

Sheila's annual raffle attracted so many people that I understand she had to go out and buy more prizes!

2012 has started with a bang as no less than 58 members and guests attended the Nigel Kennedy Concert at the Regent Theatre, having first eaten supper at the club.

I really must pay tribute to Robert who by working so tirelessly has made the last few months at the club so memorable.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Linda many congratulations on her engagement to Ed. It was great to see them together at the Carol service.

Lastly I am sure that I speak for all members when I say I am truly looking forward to what is in store for us in the coming months.

Pauline Young - Club Vice President

Snooker & Billiards News

The Winter Snooker and Billiards Competitions are progressing well and already, there are a few surprises. My thanks go to George McLellan for nudging players to keep to the timetable.

The winners of the Autumn Cooper Tankards were Jeff Cook and David Green. The winners of the Dick Berrisford "Christmas Bash" were David Jones and John Marjason - and that despite being played after lunch! We welcomed a snooker team from the East Bergholt United Services Club as a new fixture last November, introduced to us by fellow Club Member Pete Williets. A good time was had by all but



I think our narrow victory might have had more to do with the timed matches familiar to the Home side and not so for our guests. When we play the return match in March, we will need to think of another ploy! The snooker facilities are available for all Club members and in particular, you are welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings.

David Green

Bridge News

The Bridge Club has enjoyed another successful year with an average of 5.3 tables. The club has 36 members of whom 26 are regular attendees.

Congratulations must go to David Weaver who has attended 50 of the 51 sessions played this year.

26 members qualified for entry to the Trophy competition (qualification is minimum of 20 playing sessions) with average percentage score taken from total number played. The winner of the Trophy this year is Mrs. Lesley Norton who achieved an average percentage of 56.9 from 21 sessions. This was helped by an excellent result on 5th April when Lesley and Glenis Moxton came top with 79.2%. Glenis was runner-up with 54.7% and joint third were Jos Bealing and Don Betts with 54.3%.

Our annual Christmas luncheon was held on Tuesday 13th December and organised this year by Stephanie Mallett and Tim Hedley. This was a wonderful lunch enjoyed by all who attended.



Mrs. Lesley Norton receiving the Bridge Trophy from last year's winner Don Betts

On behalf of my wife Margaret and myself I would once again like to thank all of the members for their generosity in not only providing an excellent lunch for us both but also the gifts of a fine bottle of malt whisky for myself and several large boxes of chocolates for my wife.

At the time of writing this article I can now say that the chocolates and truffles were indeed delightful as was the malt whisky, no there is still some left!

S Croucher.

Spring Fashion Show

On Thursday 29th March we will host another wonderful charity evening of fashion, courtesy of Coes Womenswear.

Models will be wearing a range of exciting Spring/Summer outfits and there will be an opportunity to buy on the night.

In addition to clothes, there will also be a chance to purchase from a selection of jewellery, handbags, accessories and gifts. A two-course dinner with wine on arrival is included in the ticket price.

We want this to be a special evening for lady members and their guests, plus a chance to catch up with friends, enjoy the show and indulge in a spot of shopping. More importantly, our aim is to raise funds again for a worthy cause.

This time we have chosen Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity that has

proved itself time and again to be invaluable in providing crucial practical, medical and financial support for cancer sufferers and their families.

Donations make up 96% of Macmillan income, so fund-raising events like ours are essential to the vital work of this charity.

A donation from the ticket price will be given to Macmillan and Coes have again kindly agreed to contribute a percentage from sales.

Do come along to support this event. Previous shows have sold out quickly so do please buy your tickets soon!

Carole Booth

General Manager - Robert Coppin

Club Chef - Denis Groualle

Restaurant Supervisor - Yolande Seward

Bar Manager - Sheila Studd

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.

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.



◀ After Dinner Talk

A special fundraising evening for Age UK Suffolk took place with speaker Brian Curtois "30 years a BBC Reporter".

First Charity Christmas Fayre ▶

The Club's first Charity Fayre was held in December. The Pine Room housed refreshments, mulled wine, cakes and preserves.



◀ Winning Team

January 19th saw 8 teams compete in the 2012 Annual Club Quiz. Devised and hosted by Caroline and Paul Taylor, the competition was hotly contested right up until the final rounds.

Burns Night ▶

A dinner was held on January 27th where Haggis, piped into the room, was enjoyed with Champit Tatties and Bashed Neeps.



◀ Annual Members' Dinner

We were delighted to invite the Ipswich Choral Society to sing at the Annual Members Dinner on December 15th.

Game Dinner ▶

On October 7th we welcomed Peter Dennis, an Australian wine shipper, as the guest speaker at our Annual Game Dinner.

