

Welcome to the March Edition

The Club year is already well under way, and I hope that the varied programme of events for the coming period to August offers something for everyone. I know that Robert has received many suggestions for events and activities from members, and where possible, these have been built into the programme. Please do keep letting us know your ideas and thoughts.

If the busy period over Christmas is anything to go by, we should be into another successful few months at the Club. We had just over 100 members attend the Annual Members' Dinner and judging from the noise at the evening I think everyone had a very enjoyable time. Either that, or members were trying to shout me down during the Chairman's address. As I ducked the menu cards being thrown in my direction, I got the feeling it was probably a bit of both.

By the time you receive this missive the AGM will have been and gone, I hope in a thoroughly low key and uncontroversial fashion. The financial performance of the Club remains solid, and we have been able to continue the rolling programme of refurbishment and improvements to facilities. There will always be any number of things we can do to continue improvements, but I think that the work done over recent years has given the Club a solid foundation upon which to build towards those aspirations. As always, the involvement of members within that process is crucial to the Club's continued success.

My first year as Chairman seems to have flown by. I have had the great pleasure of meeting many members during that period, and I have been struck by the effort and enthusiasm so many of you put into helping and organising events. I forward to seeing



many more of you during my last year in the 'hot seat'.

Stephen Firmin
Chairman

A Note from the President

Occasionally I believe that it is worth mentioning that the success of the various activities within the Club is due to the contribution made by a number of members working in conjunction with the Board and Robert. Some will have provided reports within this Newsletter but we are also grateful to those unnamed. These include, of course, members who make suggestions as to interesting speakers and other activities.

The last half year has again included another Charity Fashion and Gift Fair organised by lady members, led by Carole Booth, whereby the Bumblebee Children's Charity was supported by some £900 and for which congratulations are due.

In December the Annual Dinner was attended by another record number of members with again a large waiting list. If noise levels are a measure of success then the evening was greatly enjoyed. The ninth Club Carol Service was well attended and we are fortunate to have as neighbours the Civic Church of Ipswich to appreciate the services of our

member Canon Charles Jenkin and the organist and choristers.

The Speaker's Lunches have been varied and interesting and I must make special mention of one. Ian Jewry gave a presentation of the work of the East Anglian Sailing Trust whose members provide their yachts to enable people with disabilities, particularly those with sight impairments, to have up to a week of crewing whilst living on board. With Ian was Simon Dawes, who lost his sight whilst under the age of 50, who gave us an incredible example of how to overcome adversity although the show was really stolen by his guide dog, Lennox.



Gerry Barnes, Club President

New Ipswich & Suffolk Club Members



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

- Mrs Jaqueline Barker
- Mr John Drake
- Mr David Thorp
- Mr Toby Sellers
- Mr Andrew Isles
- Mr James Kennerley
- Mrs Gabriella Kersley
- Mrs Dorothy Radley
- Mr Stafford Patient
- Mrs Louisa Chittock

Sam Wilson MBE

Ipswich and Suffolk Club member Sam Wilson, has been awarded MBE in the New Year's Honour's list in recognition of his extensive charity work.

Following a highly successful legal career, notably as a partner at both Westthorp Ward and Catchpole and Birketts, President of the Suffolk and North Essex Law Society and as a part time Tribunal Judge, Sam went on to take up a number of charity roles.

These include Governor of the Northgate Foundation, Chairman of the St John Council for Suffolk and Chairman of St Elizabeth Hospice.

Sam is well known at the Club as a keen bridge player and can usually be found on a Tuesday morning pitting his wits against fellow members in the Adam Room.

We are delighted to offer our heartiest congratulations on this well-deserved award.



On the Fabric Front...

A number of members have drawn our attention to the condition of the ladies and gents WC's. I am pleased to report that the gent's loo is in the process of redecoration and new urinals have been installed.

We are also installing a new technical piece of equipment to save water. As soon as this room is finished the team will be moving into the ladies loo for redecoration purposes.

Future work will include redecoration of the upstairs corridor outside Robert's office and the first floor WC.

Richard Hawkins



From the General Manager's Office

Now that the festivities are well and truly over we begin 2016 with a new Front of House Supervisor who will take some of the load from my shoulders (which were beginning to droop over Christmas.)

Should any member have felt I was less than attentive during this period due to the lack of supervising staff I would be very grateful if they would accept my sincere apologies.

The larger Dining Room is now starting to prove its value with a higher number

of diverse bookings that vary from a Humanist Memorial to surprise Birthdays and a sprinkling of Weddings - all of which added interest and enjoyment to the Catering Team's work and of course, much needed revenue. Thank you to all members who chose to hold their celebrations at the Club.

I would also like to thank those of you who have submitted ideas for the new Social Calendar. Some I have used this time while other ideas are ready for future events. All your comments are listened to and where possible, acted upon. Sometimes it just takes a little time.

You may have seen in the New Year that the Club is in a healthy financial position despite catering being an ever increasing uphill struggle which we will continue to work hard to balance without lowering our standards. I will look further at all aspects of the club for income/savings to support catering and help keep subscriptions to a reasonable level.

I look forward to the next six months social activities and of course seeing you on your next visit to the Club.

Robert Coppin

Décor

Over the last few months we have again been busy with internal decoration, this time decorating the main hall and staircase outside the Adam Room and the hallway down to Robert's office.

The final touch, a chandelier to hang over the stairwell to match the ones in the Adam Room should arrive shortly and hopefully put a smile on the face of Good Admiral White whose portrait overlooks the stairwell.

Whilst having been decorating one of the main areas of the building we took the opportunity to refresh and redecorate two of the smaller rooms but equally important the ladies and gents toilets.

Trudi Nicholls



Club Office Re-let

We are delighted to announce that we have negotiated new tenants for both ground floor offices in our premises at 11 Northgate Street.

We have carried out some considerable modernisation including the very latest air sourced heat pumps, LED lighting and new glazing.

Our program of refurbishment will continue on this building with further new facilities to ensure our long term tenants are happy to stay with us.

Snooker and Billiards News

The 2015/16 Snooker & Billiards Competitions are in full swing and I am grateful to George McLellan and Tony Harmer for organising things.

The winners of the Autumn Cooper Tankards were Jim Barr and Michael Devitt. The winners of the Dick Berresford Mardi Bash were Arthur Lilley and Phil Thorndyke (Possibly the oldest pairing ever to win a trophy!). Congratulations to them all.

Following the break for Christmas, the Spring season of Thursday night Club matches started at the end of January. The Fixture List is on the snooker notice



board outside the bar. These matches are played on a friendly basis and from my experience they are very enjoyable. Ability levels are definitely not the criteria for selection rather the ability to have a very social and entertaining evening!

There are 8/9 of us who select and Captain a side on an evening and we endeavor to involve as many members as possible. If you have an interest in playing then please let me know as although we have a list of members who are interested in playing snooker, we are not always aware if a member would like to play in a Club match.

Club night is held on Tuesday evenings and all members are welcome – we play from 5.15 pm to around 9.00 pm. If you are interested please just turn up or give me a ring if further information is needed

The Club's snooker facilities are of an excellent quality and the envy of those that visit us. They are available to all Club members irrespective of whether you are on my list or not but please do make use of the Snooker Diary on the table outside the bar to avoid disappointment.

Allan Williams



Bridge Notes

Bridge continues to thrive in the Club on a Tuesday morning with an average of six to seven tables per session. We can all just about squeeze in but we will have problems if everybody turns up on one day!

We have recently welcomed two new partnerships from the club into the bridge "circle". Doreen & Sarup Krishna and Margaret Fellows & Jill Stredwick. With their competitive edge they have all driven up the general standard of play. Well done.

The winner of the Steve Croucher annual trophy for 2015 brings a new name to the fore. Congratulations to Guy Hartfall. (I must stop referring to him as "Champ")

Once again, many thanks to those who step into the breach when I am unable to attend, especially Steph Mallett. She has a much better disciplinary record than myself!

Tim Hedley

Golf News



A new mixed golfing event in which all can take part will be held at Cretingham Golf Club with a meal afterwards at the Ipswich & Suffolk Club, on Wednesday 8th June. (Please look out for the notice for entries which will be put on the sporting notice board nearer the time.)

My thanks to fellow Member Neill Jackson who is kindly hosting the event

Yours in golf.

Allan Gosling

Our Annual golf day at Purdis in September was a most enjoyable day with 20 taking part. The winner was John Martin, second Russell Leeburn and in third place Phil Thorndyke. The best front nine holes was won by Andrew Johnson and the best back nine winner was Allan Gosling, nearest the pins were won by Richard Dewar and Des Cunningham.

The Northgate Trophy, our annual knockout golf competition was won by Peter Shepherd and the runner up was Robbie Adams. A big thanks to all who took part.

We are now in contact with Colchester Garrison and the Bury Farmers Club for this year's Annual fixtures, teams will be needed for these.



The Club's recent Murder Mystery event brought out surprising thespian tendencies amongst the members!

Annual General Meeting 2016

Monday February 8th was this year's date for the club's AGM, held in the elegant surroundings of the Adam Room.

Chairman Stephen Firmin presided over the events with the assistance of Keith Ferguson and General Manager Robert Coppin (see photo below).

The meeting began with the traditional minute's silence to remember members who had died since the last AGM, then after formal approval of last year's minutes, went on to approve the Club's financial accounts, re-elect Directors Hawkins, Wood and Murrill and to

re-appoint Ensors as the Company accountants.

Finally a special resolution was approved to amend the articles to reduce the minimum required number of Directors from nine to seven.

On conclusion of the official business, the Chairman opened the meeting up for questions from the floor and a brief discussion on parking, the condition of the car park surfaces and the new sanitary ware in the gents toilets took place.

After which the assembled all retired to the bar for a much needed drink...



Scrabble

It is now over a year since on January 22nd 2015 we held our very first Scrabble evening!

I am delighted to say things seem to be going very well and in recognition of this, the club has now invested in Scrabble boards for us.

We have our regulars who turn up each month, and would welcome anyone who would like to come along and join us. We start with a meal, this is then followed by three games of Scrabble each 40 minutes long and we have a prize for the winner. All this for just £12.00! You don't have to be a wizard at words as all abilities are welcome and you get the opportunity to change partners for each game!

We meet at 6.00/6.15 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month - January excepted.

On a personal note I would like to thank all the members who have supported this new venture within the Club and look forward to welcoming others who come along.

Our next evening is on Tuesday 8th March. Please let Robert know if you will be attending.

Sarah Swallow

From the Wine Committee...

Bon viveurs will be delighted to hear that the Club's programme of wine events continues apace throughout the new season.

After our Informal wine tasting and buffet on February 27th, members can look forward to a rustic regional wine event on April 15th and our popular summer wine tasting on June 17th.

Do remember to book early to avoid disappointment....



Ladies' Autumn Fashion Show

Last autumn, the club hosted another evening of fashion and fundraising. Lady members and their guests were treated to a catwalk fashion show in the Adam room, courtesy of 'Rachel's of Hadleigh and 'Holly Blue' from Woodbridge. Downstairs in the dining room a range of stalls offered gifts for Christmas, clothes, accessories and even a chance to commission a beautiful bespoke hat.

I am delighted to report that £900 was raised for Bumblebee Children's Charity. Headteacher Alison Stonham and the school's trustees have expressed their sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the donation in any way.

I am, as always, indebted to Rosemary Holley for all her invaluable help and assistance, in addition to organizing an excellent raffle. I should also like to extend my sincere appreciation, not only to those who attended in November, but who have come along

to other fundraising events over the last few years.

As a result of this support and generosity, almost £8000 has been raised for local charities such as Icen, Lighthouse, St Elizabeth Hospice and Suffolk Family Carers, plus national organisations including Help for Heroes, Macmillan Nurses and Save the Children. My most heartfelt thanks to you all.

Carole Booth

