

Back in the Club Highchair

Well, goodness, I had not expected to be back in the highchair quite so soon. Strictly speaking it was Keith Ferguson's turn this year but he has taken a sabbatical to change nappies.

On behalf of all of us I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Stephen Firmin, our outgoing Chairman, for the excellent work that he has done over the past couple of years.

His will be a very hard act to follow and he will be much missed, though not missing in action, as he is still active as a board member. However I do anticipate meetings being slightly shorter as Stephen was a firm believer in using ten words when really one would have done, possibly due to his being a commercial lawyer.

We are losing a few other notables as well.

Stepping down after years and years of office as board members are the Club's very own Laurel and Hardy, Basil Tenwick and Standley Gaskin.

While Basil, with his enormously good humour, has given over two decades of service to the Club, Stan (Gaskin not Laurel that is) has put in well over a decade, which tots up to, well, quite a lot and again filling their shoes will be quite an ask.

I also have to give a heartfelt and an enormous thank you to El President Gerry Barnes, our avuncular and charming figurehead over the past few years.

His boots are going to be ably filled by his Vice President, the inimitable Pauline Young and I am sure you will agree she will make an excellent President.

Filling her role as Vice President is none other than our very own Basil Tenwick. Doubtless they, too, will make a double act to be reckoned with.

While we yet have to fill the vacancies at the table on the board, I am enthusiastically looking forward to my next year in office at the helm keeping the seat warm for Mr Ferguson.



Ours is a very fine Club with a fantastic history and reputation and in the many years since I first joined (and I think that's over forty) I have seen it go from strength to strength.

Onwards and upwards, dear members... let's make 2017 a very good year.

Richard Hawkins
Chairman

President Gerry Barnes steps down after ten years!

...a few choice farewell words from our popular outgoing Club President.

I was privileged to have been the President, of what I regard as a rather special Club, for nearly ten years until I retired at the end of 2016.

I had only thought of myself as the

"front man" who received large support from others, namely:

The Club Board of Directors for letting me do my own thing.

My good friend, Pauline Young, who served the same term as Vice President and who always stood in for me when I

was unavailable. I am delighted that she agreed to take up the office of President.

Robert and the staff for always providing me with whatever was necessary

My wife, Jean, for her help and being my prompt in my senior moments.

And lastly, but by no means least, the members for putting up with me for so long.

I look forward to enjoying the future of, and at, the Club.



Pauline Young takes over as Ipswich & Suffolk Club President.

A note from the new President

I am very proud to have been appointed the first lady President, it is a great honour. Gerry Barnes, will be a very hard act to follow.

He was always available and had a very detailed knowledge of the Members. Please bear with me as I get to know you better! As I have only just been appointed I have nothing to report. Recent events will be recorded elsewhere in this newsletter. I really did enjoy being Vice President, it has been a helpful apprenticeship. I now look forward to the future with great anticipation.



Gerry Barnes.



From the General Manager's Office

Our financial year started well in October with the team hitting the ground running thanks in no small part to the number of private functions having increased after many referrals.

This has snowballed into more weddings booked for this year which is very helpful for our refurbishment program. The team also enjoys the challenge of organising a wedding as it brings another dimension to our working life.

No sooner had Christmas passed, than

it was time for me to think of more ideas for the Social Calendar. This year has been difficult to think of new events and slots for the Social Calendar but the whole team have been having brain storming sessions to try and help me.

A particular disappointment for this season was the lack of a suitable Theatre Show for you. However, I have now found room for an increase in our popular Speaker Lunches, which I hope will continue to be a great success.

We can also offer two new exciting shooting and fly fishing events that offer fantastic value for money, plus some very tempting "Dine and Cruise" days. All these external events are run purely at cost price as one of the benefits of being a Club member.

I am happy to report that the Club received a 5-star hygiene rating from the Food Standards Agency in January.

And finally I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Gerry Barnes for his sterling work as Club President over a great many years. Gerry and his wife Jean by his side have been superb hosts at our Speakers Lunches and many more events and have without doubt proved invaluable in ensuring that the events ran smoothly.

Robert Coppin

Ipswich & Suffolk Club Financial Report for Year to September 2016

It is my pleasure to have reported to the AGM that we had another solid financial performance for the year to September 2016. It has not been a year without its challenges and we must all again thank Robert and his team for the sterling work they put in to achieve the result.

One particular challenge we face at the moment is that of increased wage costs primarily driven by upward movement in the living wage and auto enrolment.

This increased cost is felt more in our catering operation given that we have a fixed cost at lunch time, which then cannot be recovered easily given the unpredictable levels of income we achieve. For example, we have within the catering figures achieved a 3% increase in function income but suffered a 3% decline in lunch income.

We continue to maintain strong reserves in the Club which we hope will be enough to sustain our Club and in particular our fantastic building.

To give you a feel for the type of repair problem we have in the Club, you will see a notice soon to the effect that we

are attempting to agree a solution to one of the long running repairs required to the largest of our chimneys, hence why we retain reserves at the level we do.

We currently hold any cash reserves built up at subscription time in cash deposit and, the total cash balance at the end of September of £360,000, is a good indicator of the peak balance. The low point of our cash is just over the £100,000 level in August and this is effectively our buffer against surprise costs.

A point was raised at the AGM as to whether we should attempt to manage and return any surplus above this buffer. The difficulty here is that with extra return comes risk and liquidity issues but we have taken the point to the Board for future discussion alongside looking at long term projects internally to boost income wherever possible.

All in all another great year managed by Robert and his team and the Club is in good health for your future enjoyment.

Keith Ferguson

Our Club's new Vice President Speaks Out

2017 saw my retirement from the Board of Directors of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club. I calculate that during my time on the Board I must have attended some 280 meetings, so I must confess that the prospect of "being out of the loop" so to speak was not something that I was looking forward to.

I was therefore both delighted and honoured when I was asked if I would consider taking on the role of Vice President. I am sure that I will greatly enjoy helping our new President during the forthcoming years.

I look forward to attending more Club functions and especially some of the excellent speaker's lunches that I know Robert is in the process of organising for the forthcoming year. The functions that the Club hold and the speaker's lunches are quite excellent and if you are a new member of the Club or if you are a more established member but have not been to one before, I do urge you to come along as I am sure that you would find them most enjoyable.

On a light hearted note and given how the timing of this event coincides with things happening in America I was interested to know whether I would be able to have use of Air Force 1 (or Northgate 1 as we should call it) when travelling around, and also just how many staff would be involved in looking after my security. Sadly I was quickly informed that my position would justify neither of these!

Pauline has done a wonderful job as Vice President, she will indeed be a very hard act to follow.

I will do everything I can to support her as President and I am sure we can look forward to some excellent times under her presidency.

Basil Tenwick



A splendidly attired 2016 Club Chairman, President and Vice President with this year's Vice President Basil

Snooker and Billiards News

The 2016/17 Snooker & Billiards Competitions are in full swing and as usual I am grateful to George McLellan and Tony Harmer for their organisation. To ensure that as few problems are encountered as possible, please make sure that matches are played before the deadline date. George and Tony will be very grateful!



Bill Allin Cup winning pair David Lawrence and Andy Johnson.

The winners of the Dick Berresford Mardi Bash were George Ridgway and Allan Williams. Once again this is one of the most enjoyable events of the year and thanks go to Dick for his organisational skills.

The first internal competition of the



Honours for Robin Watson and Melvin Eke - not to mention Allan Williams and Vic

season, The Bill Allin Cup, has been completed and congratulations to the victors who were David Lawrence and Andy Johnson.

Following the break for Christmas the spring season of Thursday night Club matches has now started. The Fixture List is on the snooker notice board outside the bar from which it is evident that we have a fairly full season ahead of us and I am pleased to say that we have just started a regular annual match against the Colchester Garrison Club.

All 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 sociable and entertaining evening!

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.

For those lady members who might be interested in playing snooker, Sarah Swallow organises a monthly “lesson” on a Monday. If you are interested in having a go please contact her through the Club office.

Allan Williams



Stan Gaskin

I was appointed to the Board of Directors in October 2001 and now feel it is time to retire.

Certainly over the past 15-plus years I have seen a great change in the way the Club is now run, especially in terms of the Membership which used to be male dominated. I was also chairman of the board when in 2006 we appointed Robert Coppin as our General Manager and my gratitude is passed on to him for his service and enthusiasm which sometimes seems never ending. I wish the Board and the Club the very best for years to come.

Stan Gaskin



Retiring directors Stan Gaskin and Basil Tenwick refreshing themselves on their allotment.

On the Fabric Front...

I am happy to report that we have received the necessary consents to change the former coach house into an office and, as I write this, the contractors have already started work.

If all goes according to plan it will hopefully be complete by the end of February.

Presently we are also looking into the possibility of fitting a wood-burner in the Reading Room while next on the agenda, on maybe a slightly less exciting note, we shall be partially taking down and rebuilding two chimney stacks.

Richard Hawkins

Charity Lunch

Our charity Speakers' Lunch held on Thursday 8th December, (inspired by member Richard White's spinal injury and subsequent emergency airlift), raised £570 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance charity.



Golf News

Our Annual golf day at Purdis in September when we competed for the Bernard Cup was a great success.

The winner was Bernard Clarke, second David Lawrence and in third place Des Cunningham.

The best front nine holes was won by Richard Dewar and the best back nine winner was John Rendle, with nearest the pins being won by Richard Parry and Allan Gosling.

The Northgate Trophy, our annual knockout golf competition, was won by Richard Parry and the runner up was Phil Thorndyke. 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, for which



teams will be needed so please do put your name down if you would like to take part.

Yours in Golf
Allan Gosling

Bridge Club

Still as popular as ever, the bridge section continues to thrive with an average of anything between 6 and 9 tables per session.

However, discipline, with particular regard to the noise levels of players who have finished playing their hands, continues to be a problem. It is simply a matter of courtesy and good manners to allow those, who have not finished playing, to do so without the distraction of noisy chatter. Whatever happened to the gentle art of whispering?

The annual 'Christmas' lunch was held in January this year and was kindly organised by Lesley and Glenis. Many thanks ladies. Perhaps next year some of the chaps would care to take over for a change ?

The Steve Croucher annual trophy for the player with the best results this year



was awarded to Steph Mallett. Steph may or may not have been our top performer this year, but with the approval of the board of directors, it was decided to award her the trophy for her outstanding contribution to the running of the bridge section during my enforced absences.

Despite her protestations we managed to persuade her to accept the trophy !

Tim Hedley

New Ipswich & Suffolk Club Members



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

Mrs Michelle Morton
Miss Trudie Clayden
Mrs Una McMorran
Mr Simon Davies
Mrs Juliet Cucos
Mr David Twyman
Mr Philip Birchley
Major Phillip Hope-Cobbold
Mrs Margaret Williams
Mr Duncan Mansfield
Mr David White
Mr Philip Bigley
Mr Maurice Barnes

From the Wine Committee...



Over 50 of our members relived their youth at our Retro Food/Modern Wine Tasting on Feb 3rd. when we matched popular dining dishes of the 70's with some rather more sophisticated contemporary wines.

This event was well supported, and proved to be a fun evening.

Coming up in the next social programme, on the 5th of May, we are venturing off to one of the crossroads of Mediterranean culture that is Sicily. We will sample some of the panoply of wines they produce, accompanied by some characteristic Sicilian dishes.

On the 23rd of June we host our popular 'Summer Wines and Bubbles' wine tasting evenings. This will feature lighter, easy drinking wines, for summer events and a menu which will be seasonally focused.

Scrabble

It is such an honour to be able to tell you all how successful the Scrabble evenings are now. We have at least 22 regular players and are always delighted to welcome anyone else who would like to come along. You don't have to be a word-wizard to play Scrabble and all abilities are most welcome.

We even welcome those who would like to just come along have a meal and watch.

We meet at the Club on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except January and



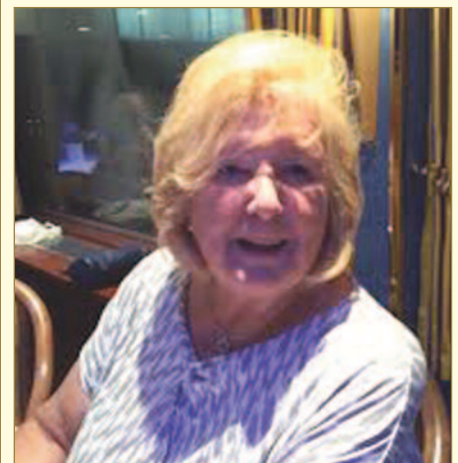
August) at 6.30pm in the bar, then sit down to a hot supper at 7.00pm.

The evening generally finishes between 9.30pm and 10.00pm.

A great way to spend an evening!

Sarah Swallow

BEM for Club Member Lucia



Lucia Watson was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2017 New Year's Honours List for her services to charity.