

Chairman's report



So, what has been happening in the Club since I last wrote? Firstly I have to report the death of my dear friend Andrew Booth. Andrew was a serving director of the Club and indeed was its chairman in 2013/14.

He loved it here and threw himself into many of the activities with great gusto -

bridge, golf, snooker (which he thought he was good at), the wine committee (of course) and he was also a regular and enthusiastic attender of evening functions.

Even now when sitting in my office I can imagine heavy footsteps approaching along the corridor and immediately think of Andrew. Victoria and I had several holidays with Andrew and Carole.

The last one being a weekend in Cambridge where the plan was to cycle to Ely. The Hawkinses were disadvantaged from the start. Andrew turned up with an electric bike and after the first hour of heavy peddling we were still in Cambridge - despite the fact he said he knew the way.

Again with heavy heart, I have to report the death of another friend and Club member, Tim Hedley. Tim was also a former director and our chairman in 1989 when he steered the Club with great skill through some difficult situations.

Tim, as many of you may know, was a very well respected dentist who, together with his wife Pauline, had a practice on Norwich Road.

On retiring they took up the franchise with Green Thumb and together created another successful business. More recently Tim had become an active member of the bridge club and, on the untimely death of Steve Croucher, took over the running of the group.

A few years ago, we visited the Hedleys at their home in Charsfield and came home with five goldfish from their lake and I'm pleased to report that the 'Hedley Five' are still thriving.

Tim and Andrew will both be sadly missed by members of the Club.

On a happier personal note Victoria and I had the pleasure of welcoming our 14th grandchild into the world recently.

As I write, Robert took a well-deserved three weeks on leave. When you next see him please do not tell him how well the Club managed during his absence.

The Club continues to roll on and is currently in good health.

Richard Hawkins
Chairman

A note from the President

I can not believe that it is eight months since I was invited to be President, how time flies by. I really am enjoying my new role.

The Club seems to be going from strength to strength. We have had a succession of speaker's lunches that have been sell outs with long waiting lists. It is invidious to pick on any particular one but I really must highlight John Hines on the London Mounted Police and Nick Anthony from Border Force Intelligence Directorate.

Both incredibly well prepared and informative. I am hopeful that one or both can be invited back so that those members who were sadly only on the waiting list can hear them.

Needless to say these lunches would not be so successful were it not for the excellent fare provided by Denis and Richard, admirably helped by our

wonderful staff. I thank Jayne personally for her help on these occasions.

We have such a varied programme of events put together by Robert, otherwise known as the 'Club Rock'. A huge thank you to him.

On a sad note I must mention the sudden, untimely death of Andrew (Andy) Booth. The esteem in which he was held was manifested by the size of the congregation at St Mary le Tower for his funeral service and subsequent wake at the Club. Our thoughts are with Carole and family.

We now look forward to the summer and autumn with again a very varied programme of events with something to suit all tastes.

I look forward to seeing you at some of these and again ask for your forbearance as I come to grips with remembering members names.



Pauline Young
President



From the General Manager's Office

The last six months has been a testing time for all the staff with the loss of some very special members who have for many years worked closely with us.

We rallied round and supported each other while ensuring we provided the very best for our members during our shared grief.

Business has been steady with our Wedding enquiries picking up now our name is being mentioned as a quality

establishment for the "special day" and one if not the best ceremony rooms in Suffolk. Also I have lost count of the extremely high number of Birthday Parties held at the Club the last six months. They have all been great fun to organise.

Thank you to all who contributed Speakers for the new Social Calendar it's a great help, as they are an important element within our social program and it's always good to have another head look at ideas.

I hope by the time you read this contribution the new Tower Street automatic car park gates will be bedded in and we are starting work on the Northgate Street gates. It's a big investment but necessary to protect our members and property. I also look forward to toasting my feet next to the new real fire in the Reading Room particularly over Christmas. You have fellow member Tim Dansie to thank for this as he supported the proposal. We do listen!

I trust you had a great summer and now your back in good old Blighty you can book some of our fantastic events.

Robert Coppin

John and Mary Marjason turn 90 together with a surprise party



Mary and I have enjoyed membership of the 'Northgate' since February 2000, which resulted through the kind sponsorship of Harold Page, a past Chairman and currently the Senior Member.

I was born in Boston on 24th July 1927, and five hours later Mary Denton came into this world in Toddington, Beds.

Twenty nine years later we met at my parent's home for Christmas drinks. I returned to Dunmow, where I worked for Lloyds Bank and courtship started, the highlight of which was a meeting at the Ideal Home Exhibition in March and proposal of marriage on our return to Boston to where Mary had moved three years earlier to teach primary school children at St Nicholas School.

On 1st September 1956 we were married. Reg was born 18th August 1958 and Ruth 1st March 1961 followed by the joy of five wonderful grandchildren.

Last year saw our Diamond Wedding with a card from the Queen.

During those years we lived in Dunmow, Wisbech, Knebworth and finally settling in Ipswich in 1968.

In 1998 I took up snooker at Felixstowe S.C. and upon joining the 'Northgate' found the snooker section in need of revival. Veronica Gilmore (then Secretary and Marketing Manager) was of great assistance, and a year later, David Green, my greatest snooker friend, took on the Captaincy and during his 13-year tenure he built a very strong section encouraging greater entries for the competitions and also arranged matches with several other bodies.

The Club is one to be envied. The staff are superb as is the friendship emanating from the membership.

May it long continue to thrive. Thank you everybody.

John Marjason



Golf News



Our match this year against the Colchester Garrison due to be played at the Colchester Braiswick course was unfortunately cancelled.

The Knockout Trophy is now well under way.

We are now looking forward to our golf day just 15 holes at Purdis (regret three holes out of action due to bunker renovation) on Wednesday 6th September where we will compete for the The Andrew Booth Memorial Trophy, followed by a meal and prize giving at our Club.

To enter please put your name down on the sporting notice board or email me at a@allangosling.com all must register in, we are also allowing one guest per member so bring a golfing friend out for a treat.

Yours In Golf

Allan Gosling

Scrabble



It's that time of year again word buffs when I am asked to do a snippet for the Club Newsletter!

Our scrabble evenings are still as popular as ever and I would like to thank everyone who supports this Club event. We have, though, changed the months we meet to meet demand. We now have a break in January - due to weather and July and August due to members holiday commitments. For all the other months of the year we will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the usual time of 6.30pm in the bar followed by supper at 7.00pm. ALL abilities can play and everyone is most welcome.

It is a lovely social evening and we occasionally mix in alternative games just for fun!

Sarah Swallow

Snooker and Billiards News

The Winter 2016/17 competitions were completed on the Finals Evening on 27th April and the results were:

Competition	Winner/s	Runner/s Up
Snooker Open	Mr S. L. Johnston	Mr G. T. Ridgway
Snooker Handicap	Mr N. A. Jackson	Mr M. W. Devitt
Norman Baynes Billiards	Mr D. G. Tuckwell	Mr G. M. McLellan
Claude West Snooker	Mr J. Drake	Mr V. E. Gray
Taylor Centenary Tankards	Mr D. Ridgway and Mr G. T. Ridgway	Mr J. Barr and Mr V. E. Gray

Congratulations to all who participated especially to David Ridgway and young George who are to my memory the first father and son pairing to win.



John Drake winner of the Claude West Trophy.



Lewis Johnston winner of the Snooker Open Cup.

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

The entry forms for the Winter 2017/18 competitions will be on the notice board from early August and there is a competition for all levels of ability – please do enter.



Neil Jackson winner of the Snooker Handicap Cup.



Dave Tuckwell winner of the Norman Baynes Billiards.

The Club plays matches against local organisations on Thursday evenings and a fixture list is on the notice board outside the bar. If you are interested in participating in what are always very social and enjoyable evenings then please do contact me.

Finally all members either existing or new are welcomed irrespective of ability. Club night is held on Tuesday evenings throughout the year starting at 5.30pm and playing until 9.00pm. If you are interested then please come along we will be pleased to see you.

Allan Williams

On the Fabric Front...

We constantly strike to improve and maintain our fine landmark building in the centre of Ipswich. It's always costly, a bit Forth Road Bridge-ish in that work is never finished, but here's a quick rundown of what is going on at the moment.

The more observant of you may have noted that the chimney stack closest to the Northgate Street entrance has been repaired and reduced in height.

Fortunately, the Listed Building Officer agreed that it could be shortened rather than being taken down altogether and rebuilt.

Meanwhile the central rear chimney stack has been strengthened and a new flue liner let in so we can now go ahead opening up the fireplace in the Reading Room in order to install a wood burner. Work on that is near completion and Tim Dansie is going to be asked the light the first piece of kindling! Ta dah.

Outside, conversion of the former Coach House is now complete and new tenants are already in occupation. To complete the programme of the transformation of old outbuildings we are now seeking planning permission to convert the old stable into a small office. Fingers crossed as the result of this application is due shortly.

Installation of new super-duper electric gates at the Tower Street entrance unfortunately didn't get off to the best start as they remained resolutely shut as members started to turn up in the morning. Apologies. The culprit appears to have been the vegetable delivery man whose 4.00am arrival caused the problem however the timing programme was swiftly reset and hopefully there will be no more such problems.

Richard Hawkins

New Ipswich & Suffolk Club Members

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

Mrs Judith Gant
Mrs Janet Dillaway
Mr Terence & Mrs Janice Graham
Mrs Elizabeth Molander
Mr Geoffrey & Mrs Marion Elder
Mr James Girling
Mr Russell Butcher

From the Wine Committee...

The Wine committee are working with our local supplier Wines of Interest to offer members a super wine tasting 29th September.

This is the last independent wine merchant in Ipswich and stock a fascinating range of wines which stretches around the world. Wherever possible these are sourced from independent growers and rarely, if ever, are to be found in the supermarkets.

Their selection is an excellent demonstration of the difference between 'cheap' and 'value for money'; there is no reliance on big brands or fashion. With careful buying and assiduous tasting of every line before reaching the shelves are what count. Wines of Interest pride themselves on treading the byways rather than the highways. Sniffing out the unusual or less well known is what turns up more interesting and frequently better value choices and why the Wine Committee are working with this local supplier.

Bruce Murrill



Club member Catherine Forsdike celebrated her birthday at the Club in May.

A party was held for close family with a menu of Club cured Gravlox, English Pork Tenderloin with a Cider Sauce, and Catherine's favourite of Red Berry Meringue with cream and Coulis.



We were delighted to host Lewis & Mitzi Tyler's Diamond Wedding Anniversary 13th May.

The 50 guests had a most enjoyable time with Prosecco on arrival, Crayfish Cocktail, English Lamb, and Pistachio Mousse. Pride of place was a card from her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.



In June Club members are seen here on board the Allen Gardiner River Cruise & Dinner.

They departed from the Ipswich Wet Dock at the historic Ipswich Waterfront and travelled along the River Orwell.

The superb three-course candlelight dinner, prepared from fresh, locally sourced ingredients was very much enjoyed.

Ipswich & Suffolk Club Annual Golf Day

Playing for
1st

**The Andrew Booth
Memorial Trophy**

**Wednesday
6th September**

Andrew Booth Memorial Trophy

The Board of Directors have commissioned a trophy in memory of Past Chairman and Director, Mr Andrew Booth, who passed away suddenly, recently.

Mrs Carole Booth, pictured with the trophy, expressed her gratitude and thought it a generous gesture from the Club.

The Andrew Booth Memorial Trophy will be played for annually at the Ipswich & Suffolk Club Golf Day which this year is on Wednesday 6th September at Ipswich (Purdis Heath) Golf Club.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ipswich and Suffolk Club members for all the kindness you have shown me in recent months. Whether condolences, cards, visits or when I came along to the wine tasting on the 30th June.

The Club and its members were held in special regard by Andrew and he treasured your friendliness and warmth over many years. I have been so touched by your concern and care.

It is much appreciated and, for me, reflects the very best of belonging to the Club and the true spirit of its community. Thank You.

Carole Booth