

## A Final Word from the Chair...

**The first six months of 2012 have passed very quickly and, as can be seen elsewhere in the newsletter, it has been a very busy period for the Club which even disappointing summer weather could not frustrate.**

We continue to enjoy high levels of membership combined with very active use of the Club. Keith Ferguson points out in his contribution that this very favourable combination has enabled the Board to maintain subscriptions at the current rate for the next membership year commencing in October – the third year with no increase! A major assumption made by the Board in reaching this decision is that the current high use of the Club will continue. As subscriptions only account for something close to 35% of total revenues, it is very easy to see the significance of other revenue streams. The message to all Club members is “if you want to help keep subscriptions around current levels, please continue to regularly use your Club”.

As usual Robert has worked very hard to produce a Social Calendar for the next six months that has very wide appeal. Recent experience suggests that early booking is essential if you wish to attend any of

these events. It is very good to see the recent trend of holding events linked to charities being continued in the upcoming programme.

The never-ending requirement to renovate and improve the fabric of Archdeacon House remains very much at the forefront of our planning. The age of the property combined with Robert's urge to continue to seek out areas of improvement means that we are faced with another active year ahead. The major project which the Board has earmarked funds for is the complete refurbishment of the Adam Room over the next twelve months.

Eighteen months ago, I remember feeling slightly anxious as I commenced my two year stint as Chairman and wrote my first newsletter article. Time has passed incredibly quickly and this is my final newsletter. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chairman and I am extremely



**Club Chairman, Martin Wood**

grateful to my fellow directors, Robert and his staff plus the many other Club members who continually contribute to the day to day operation of the Club so as to ensure its continued success and to enable carrying out the role of Chairman to be such a pleasant experience.

I very much hope that I will have the opportunity of meeting many of you during my remaining five months in office.

**Martin Wood**  
*Chairman*

## President's Note

**The last half year's Social Calendar events have largely been a great success but in this space I cannot make reference to them all. Restaurant Nights are still popular and the Speaker's Lunches mostly well supported.**

I try not to specifically mention particular speakers but make an exception here. I touch on three because of their different content. Ronaldo with his illusions and perceptions; Sister Marian Davey with her stories of helping non-english speaking seafarers from around the world and on one occasion being mistaken for a brothel keeper! and Dave Mellor, the inventor of the Firetrace Automatic Fire Suppression Systems, who not only gave a live demonstration of this system but also an hilarious physics lesson demonstration with explosions! Regrettably the latter lunch had one of the smallest attendances.

The Olympic sites visit was much enjoyed despite the heavy rain showers; the only members to brave the weather

and view the Thames Barrier were John & Pauline Young – both dressed in full raingear, John on foot and Pauline in her mobility scooter.

This year's special event was the Diamond Jubilee Dinner. The evening started with Pimms on the most impressive lawn (laid by Robert on the front car park) with much braving of the cold! Denis and his colleagues produced a very appropriate menu complete with flaming Alaskas. The Vice-president, Pauline Young, conducted an auction for three Bells Whisky Commemorative Porcelain Decanters (with royal reference) donated by Robert for Help for Heroes. Pauline with great determination achieved the excellent result of £265. A special extra toast was given to Eddie Mould who 59 years to the day had been on security duty at the Coronation. All attending signed a Menu & Programme Card which will be framed to hang with that for the Golden Jubilee Dinner in the Dining Room. Another much enjoyed function was the Ipswich Orchestral Society Summer Concert at The Corn Exchange preceded by dinner at the Club. The



**Club President, Gerry Barnes**

orchestra performed superbly and we had excellent reserved seats at the front of the balcony (notwithstanding that all the tickets on sale were unreserved!!) Although probably mentioned in the Snooker & Billiards report we had to feel sorry for Lewis Johnston who had hoped to join Alan Matheson and have his name on the Norman Haynes Billiards Winners Board for a third consecutive year. He was thwarted in the final by an incredible unassailable opening by David Tuckwell. However there was some poetic justice as David was beaten in a similar situation a few years ago.

**Gerry Barnes – Club President**

# Bridge Club

The bridge club continues to meet on Tuesday mornings and so far this year we average 5.6 tables.

To date twelve members have qualified for entry to the annual competition with a further eighteen who will qualify within the next three months.

Congratulations must go to Bridge Club members Jos Bealing and Terry Stevens, who achieved the winning score of 78.3% on 24th January 2012.

We welcome Nicola Cunningham, who is now playing with us regularly and hope she is enjoying her bridge with us.

July 17th was a very special day, as two of our members Alan Catchpole and Roy Simpson provided canapés and Champagne at our normal coffee break time and treated the bridge club to a delightful lunch by way of celebrating their 80th birthdays. This was a truly lovely day with many members regaling us with amusing stories etc. I must say that neither of them looks their age – so you see what bridge can do for you. Don't all rush; we have a limited number of vacancies.

S Croucher.

**Don't miss the Ipswich and Suffolk Club Annual Golf day**

**Wednesday Sept 5th 2012 at Ipswich Golf Club, Purdis Heath**

**Tee off 1.30pm followed by dinner at the Club**

**Please enter your name on list or contact Allan Gosling**

# Golf News

**In April our annual match v Colchester Garrison was played at Purdis and I am pleased to report that we won the Priarch Trophy back from last year's winners. Three of our four teams won.**

We also had a good match at Flempton v The Bury Farmers to retain the Turnbull Trophy. Two teams won, one team halved and one team lost.

At present the Northgate Trophy a knockout from May to September is on target with the set dates.

A date for your diary Wednesday 5th September 1.30 start at Purdis followed by a meal and prize giving at the Ipswich & Suffolk club for the Barnard Cup. Please put your name down on the sporting notice board or email me at a@allangosling.com all must register in, we are also having guests again for this day so bring your golfing friends out for a treat.

Yours in Golf **Allan Gosling**

# General Manager's Review...

**As you may be aware, we have a new Front of House Supervisor Jenny who has taken over this role from Linda, who has moved to Housekeeper and General Assistant.**

Jenny comes from a well-known Hotel Golf complex and has substantial experience in the Hospitality sector. Jenny also plays golf so we are on the look out for a Ladies Team that she can muster against other clubs.



**Robert Coppin (sporting Gordon Gecko red braces) shows off the new Northgate Street gates.**

For the future, I plan to build on our success in catering and support the kitchen team lead by Denis, with further investment in this area. This will not only make the kitchen much more efficient but will also bear fruit in enhanced cuisine for the members.

Please remember to book early any events as they are very popular. We take bookings for the Social Calendar on-line and by telephone. However, should you be compelled to cancel a booking, please be sure to give plenty of notice as bookings that cannot be re-sold may still have to be charged for, in order to meet the not insignificant operating costs. I do understand that sometimes unexpected things happen and you have to cancel and I will of course always try my best to re-sell your tickets.

Finally I would like to make mention of a long-standing member, Mrs Winifred Forton who died on December 13th 2011.

Having been born on October 2nd 1920, Win had a long life and was a very long standing member of the club. I will remember her with great affection as an elder of the club who embraced modern technology, even to the extent of attending computer classes at the club with characteristic zest. To be in the presence of such a big personality from a such diminutive person was always a great pleasure.

*Robert Coppin - Club General Manager*

# Subscription Costs on Hold

**As the members enjoy the summer weather, holidays and sporting extravaganzas it is the time of year for the bean counters and Robert to get out their crystal ball, hide away in a dark room, and take an informed view as to how we think the financial position for the year to 30.09.2012 will look. This enables us to set a draft budget for the following year and to consider in detail the increase in subscriptions.**

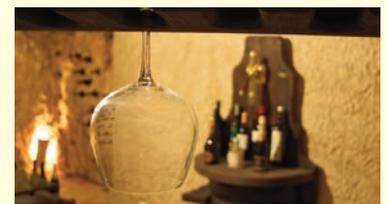
Over the last few years Robert has managed our costs and squeezed every saving he can and at the same time has maximised the usage of the club's facilities. There is little further room for further savings and inflationary increases in costs for heat, light and drink prices etc. continue to eat into our revenue.

However, despite this outlook I am pleased to say that the board do not feel that the time is yet upon us where we need to raise the subscription prices. We are watching the situation very carefully, but feel that we can continue to pass on the saving in real terms to members for the time being.

We particularly are mindful of the large projects that are being undertaken on the fabric of the building that Richard Hawkins has mentioned in his report. These projects have been a part of our budget process for decades but we continue to strive to balance the on-going net income of the club with the need for major repair and refurbishment. As a result we have a club house that we all enjoy as members and are proud to show off to our guests. **Keith Ferguson.**

# Wine Committee

**Two recent wine tasting events were the 'Iberian Wine Experience' in April and the 'Champagne and Strawberries' evening in July. Both were sell-outs and much enjoyed, with Messrs Booth and Eke taking starring roles in the latter!**



Looking ahead we have a potentially exciting Australian tasting in September, where we will be trying to find some more unusual wines, to be followed by our popular annual Vintage Wine tasting in November.

Don't forget, we raid the cellar again, for the Annual Members Dinner in December. Explore the Social Calendar quickly, book early and stay in practice!

**Bruce Murrill.**

# Membership Update

We are in a very fortunate position in these somewhat austere times to have welcomed the following new members to the club during the last six months:

Humphrey and Susan Adair, Alan and Nicola Buckingham, Mrs Kay Cox, Stephen Law, David Lawrence, Peter Ledger, Dr David Meldrum, Mrs Audrey Reading, Hans and Sally Sieffer-Rodway, and Neil and Angela Weston. Sadly two members have passed away during the same period Mrs Winifred Forton and Timothy Alston.

We do currently enjoy a very healthy membership and thank all members for supporting the club in their own way... long may it last.

**Stan Gaskin.**

# Charity Christmas Fayre

**On Saturday December 1st, once again with the help of a number of talented ladies from local fund-raising organisations, culinary expert club members and a much valued team of volunteers, the club will be hosting its second Charity Christmas Fayre.**

We are delighted to offer once again a range of cakes, preserves and pickles along with stalls selling exciting Christmas gifts for family, friends or home.

This year we will be supporting Suffolk Family Carers. This invaluable charity is in contact with more than 14,000 family carers, some as young as 9 years old.



**Last year's Charity Christmas Fayre**

The self-sacrifice, patience and dedication involved in being a carer can be very demanding. For the last 20 years, Suffolk Family Carers has provided support, information and respite for, as they put it "this army of unpaid family and friends".

The club is proud to be associated with another indispensable local charity and we look forward to seeing you between 2.30pm and 4.30pm, to enjoy the festivities and give your valued support to such a good cause.

**Carole Booth.**

# Snooker & Billiards News

**The Winter 2011/12 Competitions were completed on the Finals Evening on 26th April 2012 and the results were:**

Competition	Winner/s	Runner/s up
<i>Snooker Open</i>	<i>S.L.Johnston</i>	<i>M.D.Eke</i>
<i>Snooker Handicap</i>	<i>N.Jackson</i>	<i>A.Harmer</i>
<i>Norman Baynes Billiards</i>	<i>D.G. Tuckwell</i>	<i>S.L.Johnston</i>
<i>Claude West Snooker</i>	<i>M.Page</i>	<i>N.Baker</i>
<i>Taylor Centenary Tankards</i>	<i>M.Page &amp; N.Baker</i>	<i>A.Harmer &amp; A.Johnson</i>

Congratulations to all and thanks to the referees, Messrs Croucher, Johnston, McLellan, Marjason, and Murrill.

For this coming winter's competitions, the entry forms will be on the notice boards from early August. We had fewer entries than usual last year so please enter all those competitions for which you are eligible - players with higher handicaps often make worthwhile progress in all of the competitions. However, please ensure that you are available for the Finals Evening concerned - see Entry Form for date.

We continue to welcome all players, irrespective of ability, to join us on Tuesday evenings, particularly those who have started playing snooker more recently - just turn up between 5.30pm and 8.00 pm ( we play until about 9.00pm ).

Jim Savage and Malcolm Stredwick left the Snooker Committee a few months ago, in both cases following a serious operation. I wish them both a speedy return to full fitness and thank them both for the help and advice they have given over several years. We welcome Tony Harmer, Neil Jackson and Peter Shepherd who have now joined the Committee which now numbers 12. My thanks to them all - it is their efforts which enable the Snooker to be organized for the 68 snooker playing members with a full programme of matches and competitions.

**David Green.**



**Taylor Centenary Tankard winners**

# Fabric and Maintenance Matters

**By now regular users of the club will have discovered that the new door from the main car park is in operation. If you can remember the code to the front door you will have no problem using it as it is the same!**

We apologise for the current state of the flower beds but these have been grubbed out in preparation for a new planting programme in the autumn.

We are starting to work up a programme to redecorate of the Adam Room. As this is our most prestigious room, particular care is being taken to ensure that all works are in keeping with the club. The first stage is the replacement of the windows with new double glazed units in wood but this is the subject of planning permission. The main redecoration will take place in August 2013.

The entrance porch and hall are shortly to be redecorated to match the inner hallway.

One major improvement that will shortly be undertaken is the conversion of the first floor area above the store outside the kitchen into an office. If any member is interested in renting a small office to write his or her memoirs then please contact Robert.

Also as part of the on-going planned maintenance the main gates into Northgate Street have been replaced at great expense! **Richard Hawkins.**



**Club President, Gerry Barnes officially opens the Tower Street entrance.**

## 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 respectively recommend early booking for all events to avoid disappointment.

### Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Without a doubt the highlight of this year's Social Calendar has been the Club's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

The Club's front lawn returned for one special day, ensuring we could hold a garden party.

Then it was inside for a magnificent evening dinner to round off the Club's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in style.



When Club Member Richard Parry held his retirement lunch on Saturday 30th June, we were delighted to be able to play host to a number of guests that included the Lady Mayor of Ipswich, Mary Blake and her consort, John Duffy.



## Book Club

**The Club book club started in 1996 and has kept a vibrant friendly core of members and has welcomed newcomers along the way.**

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month and always manage to have a lively discussion, not always about books! We sometimes study a set book, or an author or genre, and we particularly like this format. It allows us flexibility and encourages us to read widely.

We have a summer break in July and August and meet again the first Wednesday in September at about 10am for a 10:15am start. We will be discussing a Dickens novel of our own choice. We felt that we need the summer break to tackle a 'Dickens'! **Mary Gaskin**

## All in a Good Cause

**On Thursday November 8th the club will be hosting its second charity fashion show this year.**

We will be showcasing Autumn and Winter fashions from Hintlesham Barns, which has recently been opened by Maureen Gerber and Julie Girling, offering a delightful range of womenswear and accessories. In addition, Maureen and Julie stock an interesting variety of homewear and gifts. With Christmas in mind, a selection of the range will be for sale on the evening and there will also be an opportunity to purchase fashions from the collection.

Tickets, priced at £29, include welcome drink, two course meal and a donation to Lighthouse Womens Aid. This vital Ipswich-based charity, now in its 36th year, offers not only refuge to women in need, but also a range of community services and a soon to be opened drop-in centre.

Do come along and enjoy what promises to be a wonderful evening of fashion while supporting a most worthy cause. Please book early to avoid disappointment: our last show sold out within very few days! **Carole Booth**