

From the chair...

Welcome to the September 2013 edition of the Ipswich & Suffolk Club Newsletter.

After presiding over what must have been by no small margin the longest and "most exciting" I&S Club AGM this century, I was looking forward to gently easing my knees under the Chairman's leather-topped escritoire and penning a short piece telling you all how quiet and relaxing my first year as Chairman had been so far.



Club Chairman, Andrew Booth.

It seems this was not to be.

In fact, a mere eight months into my two year term I find to my astonishment that my energetic colleagues and in particular our tireless General Manager are moving the Board's plans on apace.

Inside the club, the Fabric Team has taken the Kitchens to task and as I write, the new Kitchen storeroom (under the arch) is nearing completion with an additional office.

Upstairs the Adam Room is undergoing a complete refurbishment under the watchful eye of Trudi Nicholls.

This has included new windows, new crystal chandeliers, upgrading the fireplace, having replacement curtains made and a careful redecoration in revised colourways - not a cheap process but an expense which I am sure you will agree is appropriate for such a prestigious and important room.

It also gives me huge pleasure to see the transformation of the Club Gardens into something that already looks splendid and in due course will in my view look magnificent.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to formally thank past Chairman Bruce Murrill and particularly his wife Gloria who between them have masterminded and laboured over the project.

Finally, I am very aware that many Club functions have grown in popularity and have therefore become regularly oversubscribed, leaving some members unable to book places on their chosen events.

We propose to address this issue with an extension of the Club Dining Room, which will bring the room's capacity up to around sixty formal diners and significantly more for a cocktail party style event.

Details of this scheme will be posted on the notice board once consultations with planners and architects have been completed, and with a fair wind, by this time next year even more of us should be able to raise a glass or two together.

Hoorah!

Andrew Booth

Chairman

A note from the Club President

The social activities of the Club arranged by Robert, both lunchtime and evening, have been well supported during the last half year.

It was particularly pleasing that the speakers at two of the lunches were members of the Club and we are grateful to both Michael Warren and Anne Reeder for their interesting and informative contributions.

I am particularly grateful to Pauline Young, the Vice President, for hosting two of the lunches (in the case of the second to enable me to be at the first day of the Ashes Test at Lords!) and the Club Fashion Show.

Even more thanks are due to Pauline for her initiative when the Speaker for the July lunch cancelled. Through her next door neighbour, Mrs Lyall, she was able to obtain the services of Pat Godbold, who had been the secretary to a number of Ipswich Town Football Club managers, including Sir Bobby Robson, and is now the archivist.

The lunch was an immediate sell-out. Robert has been very successful in obtaining other organisations to use the dining room facilities for evening functions. I am extremely pleased that in October, Age UK Suffolk will be having a Charity Evening with Charlie Haylock, a great supporter and Patron. Having earlier been a Trustee of Age Concern Suffolk (now Age UK Suffolk) for some years, I do hope that the evening will be a great success.

Finally a huge thank you to Gloria (aided by Bruce) Murrill for the work in redesigning and planting the flower beds at the Club which are already showing how impressive they will be.



Club President, Gerry Barnes.

Don't miss the
Ipswich & Suffolk
**Annual
Golf Day**
Wednesday 4th Sept

18 holes at the superb
Ipswich (Purdis Heath)
Golf Club and dinner
afterwards at the Club

Guests are welcome

Please contact :
Allan Gosling at
allan.gosling@virginmedia.com
or sign up on the
Club notice board

A room outside...

It may sound like something of a cliché but that is exactly what has been created to great effect to the rear of the bar and the snooker room on the "Club Terrace".

Much of the credit for that which has been achieved must go to the green-fingered duo Gloria and Bruce Murrill who between them had devised, planned and implemented a beautiful garden that stretches from the terrace right across the Tower Street side of the building to the drive-through.

Standard bay trees have been used to great structural effect against the club walls and the borders have been



expertly planted with the assistance of newly appointed part-time Club Gardener Elizabeth Woolnough.

Similarly the Northgate Street beds adjacent to the boundary wall have been stocked with plants and have already transformed the view from

the dining room window.

Our sincerest thanks go to the Murrills for the many hours they have put into this project, (which even included a great deal of actual spadework) and we all look forward to enjoying the fruits of their labours for many years to come.

Snooker and Billiards News



The Winter 2012/13 Competitions were completed on the Finals Evening on 25th April 2013 and the results were:

Snooker Open

Winner: S. L. Johnston
Runner up: D. G. Tuckwell

Snooker Handicap

Winner: N. Baker
Runner up: M. D. Eke

Norman Baynes Billiards

Winner: S. L. Johnston
Runner up: B. A. Murrill

Claude West Snooker

Winner: G. M. McLellan
Runner up: N. Baker

Taylor Centenary Tankards

Winners: J. A. Marjason
& V. D. Alexander
Runners up: G. M. McLellan
& A. M. Gosling

Congratulations to all and thanks to our Chairman, Andy Booth for presenting the prizes and also to the referees, Messrs Croucher, Harmer, Marjason, and Williams.

The Committee has considered ways in which to increase the interest of all members in Billiards in particular and the Snooker Section in general. Trials are under way to devise the framework for a new competition involving both Snooker and Billiards in the same frame. The last Finals Dinner was a most enjoyable event and efforts are being considered to expand the interest more widely amongst all members. A sweepstake will be organized for all the Snooker Handicap entrants with prizes presented at the Finals Dinner - details of both will be announced shortly.

For the coming winter's competitions, the entry forms will be on the notice boards from early August. Please enter all the Competitions for which you are eligible. 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. Several Members are at the Club on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. This is an ideal time for those who have started playing snooker more recently - just turn up between 5.30 and 8.00 pm (we play until about 9.00pm).
David Green.

From the Wine Committee...

Members enjoyed a brand new Wine Committee event formula in April when we held our first 'wine list' tasting. About 30 wines were presented, on an informal evening, and the object was to rate the wines for potential inclusion on our next wine list.

That list has just been reissued and includes a number of those wines that the members particularly enjoyed. It has been suggested that we hold a wine tasting based on the current list, which is a format for future consideration.

The Champagne and Strawberries' evening in July was again a sell-out and much enjoyed.

Looking ahead to the autumn season we start in September by sampling the excellent produce of our New Zealand cousins. It should be a tasty evening. In November our popular annual Vintage Wine tasting takes place and in February we plan to re-run the riotous Call My Bluff tasting.

Explore the Social Calendar quickly, book early and stay in practice!

Bruce Murrill.



From the General Manager's office



It has without doubt been a challenging six months, particularly with food prices rising higher and higher, which has required the Club team to work harder than ever to bring value for money to our members.

The change in "Restaurant Night" format has been a success and therefore we will continue to bring you themed evenings to ensure that these events continue to grow in popularity.

Our current Social Calendar format also appears to be proving popular and we are now building on this success to improve our capacity so more of you can attend events in the future. It is a

lot of hard work but I feel it will secure the Club's future.

I do hope you like our new wine list as the ideas came from you with great support from our suppliers. Now you can choose wines that have been selected within a taste band to make it easier and the wines by the glass have also been increased due to overwhelming demand.

This is the first year the air-conditioning in the Dining Room has made a major impact and during our hot summer the Dining Room was a delightful place in which to enjoy lunch or dinner. I intend to build on this success and consider more investment in the area, as the units are also "green" air heat pumps that heat the building in the winter at a much lower cost both to the Club and to the environment.

I am looking forward to the next six months as these are the really busy times and I will have an excuse to extract myself from this computer and the building work as I long to get downstairs and serve at table.

Robert Coppin - General Manager.

Golf News



In late April our team were the winners of the Priarch Trophy played against the Garrison Club at Colchester.

However it is with great sadness that I have to report the death of their long-standing Captain of Golf, Major Freddy Selleck after a brave fight with cancer.

Freddy was a "larger than life" character in every sense and his warm personality and ability to inject a huge amount of fun into every occasion will be sadly missed. On a cheerier note, we had a great game at Purdis versus The Bury Farmers, when three of our four teams won, for us to retain The Turnbull Trophy.

The Northgate Knockout Trophy is now in its fourth round and I am please to report that all matches are now on time.

We are now looking forward to our golf day at Purdis on Wednesday 4th September where we will be competing for the Barnard Trophy followed by a meal and prize giving at the Ipswich & Suffolk Club. Could all entrants please register in advance by putting your name down on the sporting notice board or emailing me at a@allangosling.com. We are also allowing one guest per member so why not bring a golfing friend out for a treat.

Yours In Golf.

Allan Gosling.

Read all about it

After the summer recess the Book Club will meet again at 10.15 am on Wednesday 4th September when we will be sharing our summer reads.

We meet once a month and have a healthy attendance and lively discussions. We always welcome new members and the books and authors under discussion are posted on the main notice board.

Mary Gaskin.

New members

The Ipswich & Suffolk Club warmly welcome the following new members:

Daphne Hansford • Kimat Singh • Luke Morris • Mr & Mrs Guy Leigh-Pollitt • Mr & Mrs Peter Hussey • Mr & Mrs Malcolm Harding • Malcolm Rowe • Mr & Mrs Forbes Powrie • John Rendle • Lawrence Collins • Andrew Edge • Prof. Neil Woodcock • Mrs Jos Bealing • Peggy Upshall • Janette James • Richard Jeffrey • Miss Janet Maidment.



Bridge Club

At the half year point 19 members have qualified for entry to the Bridge Trophy competition with 12 others who will qualify within the next two months. Don Betts is currently in first position with Alan Catchpole close on his heels.

I would like to thank Tim Hedley, who ran the Bridge Club and took care of the scoring during my five week cruise in February/March. Thanks to all those members who said on my return, that they had not noticed I was away!! So I am now booking more cruises.

In May this year we welcomed Olav Svendsen into the Club, who now partners his wife Cathy on a regular basis. I hope they are both enjoying their bridge with us.

Over the year we average 6 tables, so there is still room for members who would like to play competitive but very friendly bridge on a Tuesday morning. Finally I must thank Robert (our General Manager) who has kindly re-covered the bridge tables and re-organised the Adam room, making space for up to nine tables on a Tuesday morning.
Steve Croucher.

On the Fabric Front...

We are about to enter an exciting time for the club with many new improvements for our members. As we have been oversubscribed on our functions we decided on an expansion program.

As you will have noticed we are currently progressing construction works on the Kitchens, after which we will start work on phase two of the Kitchen expansion.

When all the works are completed on the Kitchens, we will then start work on expanding the Dining Room which will hopefully ensure we can accommodate higher numbers to our Club events.

Now that the Adam Room refurbishment is nearing completion and readiness for many forthcoming events we will also look into a Wedding Licence for this room as we will have a Dining Room and Kitchen large enough for today's wedding market.

We have upgraded our presentation facilities in the main dining room that now offers a wireless microphone speaker system linked to a "Hearing Loop" for those wishing to attend our very popular Speakers Lunches. The facilities also sport a pull down screen and digital projector for business presentations.

Richard Hawkins and Trudi Nicholls.

Ladies' Fashion Show event



In March the club again played host to a most enjoyable evening of Spring/Summer fashions. Hintlesham Barns and Dressed on Deck presented their latest collections while guests enjoyed delicious food and wine.

A warm welcome was given to Tam Marshall of the Stroke Association who outlined the work of this important charity for which over £400 was raised. My thanks go to all who supported the event and to Julie Wood for her invaluable assistance.

The Ipswich & Suffolk Club looks forward to hosting our Autumn/Winter Charity Fashion Show on Thursday 24th October. We are delighted to welcome back both Maureen Gerber, launching her exciting Mauro Collection and Jane Forsdike, presenting fashions from Bijou Boutique. As with previous evenings, there will be an opportunity to buy clothing, accessories and jewellery after the show.

Tickets are priced at £30 which includes welcome drinks, canapés, a two course meal with wine, fashion show and a donation to St Elizabeth Hospice, a most important local charity that does so much to help those living with progressive illness. Do come along and enjoy a new season of fashion, delicious food, wine and the opportunity to support a vital local charity. Guests are most welcome but places do sell out very quickly so do please book early to avoid disappointment.

Carole Booth.

We are pleased to announce two new reciprocal clubs:
The Guernsey Club
Deccan Gymkhana, Pune, India
Contact details of these, and other reciprocal clubs can be found on the Club website

Recent Club Events

In recent months, there have been a large number of highly successful events held at the Club.



Snooker Winners

Snooker Handicap winner Nick Baker (left) and Claude West winner George McLellan flank Club Champion Lewis Johnston.



Flower Arranging

Another immensely enjoyable Spring flower evening was spent in the company of Julia Gooch, a beautiful example displayed above.



Bridge Winners

Bridge winner Don Betts collects the 2012 trophy from Steve Croucher.



Sheila's 70th

Sheila Studd our long-serving Bar Manageress celebrates reaching three score and ten.

Club history brought up to date

Many of you will be aware that back in 1985, Harold Page took on the onerous task of producing and publishing a potted history of the Ipswich & Suffolk Club in celebration of the Club's first 100 years.

A quarter of a century later, when in 2010 we achieved the 125 years milestone, it was suggested that the history might be updated.



Club Historian Harold Page.

We are therefore delighted to announce that the new volume has at last arrived, featuring a foreword by 2011/2012 Chairman Martin Wood and liberally sprinkled with caricatures of past and present members as seen in the Club Bar.

Our sincere thanks must go out to Harold Page and Basil Tenwick who wrote and edited the work and to Stan Gaskin who took on the task of supervising the artwork and print.

A complimentary copy of this new edition is now available for each member, which can be collected from the Club Reception.