

A Warm Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the September 2015 edition of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club newsletter. The Chairman's contribution reaches you from the windswept tundra of North Jutland via some technical IT wizardry beyond my basic grasp of what I am told is a remote network access. Danish schnapps and waterproofs at the ready, I will crack on (noting the Editor's emphasis on brevity).

It has been a busy first half-year at the Club with events continuing to be well supported. I believe the extension to the Dining Room facilities is really making a difference, and I hope this is now enabling many to attend functions where they may have struggled to do so in the past (albeit that we still have to cap numbers at some events). We had some 70 bookings for the Seafood Night in May and it was wonderful to see so many members enjoying an excellent evening at the Club.

The increase in capacity is not only important for Club events but also to ensuring we are able to provide

effective facilities for private and business functions, which remain an important revenue stream. This coupled with the on going programme of refurbishment and upgrades should enable the Club to be well placed going forward. Please do speak with Robert if you are considering venues for functions, and take advantage of the improved facilities now available.

I was made extremely welcome at the Snooker Finals evening at the end of April, but I suspect the gloves will be off for the annual Directors v Members snooker match later in the year. As you will note from other contributions, David Green recently retired as Snooker Captain. David is one of several members who have (and continue) to give generously of their time voluntarily to organising a wide range of activities for the membership; from snooker, golf and bridge to the more recent additions of Scrabble evenings and the book club. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

Details of the forthcoming events for the Autumn and Winter periods are



enclosed, and I hope you will agree with me that Robert has again come up with an excellent varied programme. As always, many of the events do become booked up quickly, so do make sure you contact Robert as soon as you can.

I am very much looking forward to the second half of this year, and hope to see many of you at the various Club events during that time.

Stephen Firmin
Chairman

A Note from the President

Once more the full range of social activities of the Club have been well supported and much appreciated. It is not possible to mention all that took place but a special mention is due to some particularly "local" items at the Speaker's Lunches and other occasions.

Clifford Smith, a Club member and former Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, gave an interesting appreciation of the happenings over the last fifty years in the County. Anthony Cobbold presented the history of the Cobbold family of which John and Patrick had been long standing members of our Club.

This was later followed by Philip Hope-Cobbold describing, in his own inimitable way, the history of Glenham Hall and the family contributions. A visit to and tour of Glenham Hall took place in July. The Battle of Waterloo 200th Anniversary Dinner was much enjoyed, in no small part due to another Mark Mitchels talk, this time on the Duke of Wellington (last year Mark enthralled us at the Trafalgar Dinner about Lord Nelson).



A visit to the Calvors Brewery with a tasting and lunch has resulted in their products being available in the bar.

Once more Carole Booth and the lady members arranged a very successful Charity Fashion Show. It is pleasant that the Club is able to support such worthwhile charitable organisations.

A number of members have commented upon the shrub and flower beds now that the efforts of Bruce and Gloria Murrill have come to fruition.

Finally my thanks are due to Pauline Young and Trudi Nicholls who stood in for me when I was unavailable to be at some Speaker's Lunches.

Gerry Barnes, Club President

Welcome to our New Members

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

Joan Brightwell
 Angelica Johnson
 Margaret Croucher
 Eric & Christine Barnett
 Arthur Lilley
 Shirley Blakemore King
 Ian Yeldham
 John Cousins
 Daniel Jarrold
 Charles (Tony) & Beryl Dodds
 Reg Wincomb
 Stephen & Rachel Buckle
 Geoffrey Hartgrove
 Sarup & Doreen Krishna
 Veronica Hall
 Paul & Alison Rippon
 Geoffrey Watson
 Robert Huxter



Steve Croucher

The passing away of popular Club member and Bridge Section Leader Brian Stephen Croucher earlier this year, was received by one and all with great sadness.

Steve died aged 78 after a short illness but until very recently he was a familiar figure in the Club, having founded and subsequently run the I&S Tuesday morning Bridge Section and playing Club snooker on a regular basis.

Outside the Club his involvement in participating in and running local organisations included St John's Tennis Club, Ipswich Golf Club, Rushmere Bowls Club, Woodbridge Bridge Club and St John's Bridge Club, the last of which he founded and continued to run until earlier this year.

Despite this very busy schedule Steve always had time for a chat and to share one of his truly enormous collection of jokes – some of which were suitable for lady members...

Steve enjoyed a 24 year career with the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1978, during which time he travelled all over the world and rose to the rank of Warrant Officer.

Upon leaving the RAF Steve took up a position marketing wines and spirits, where he enjoyed a second successful career until 1996 when he retired just before his 60th birthday.

In 1959 as a young Airman, Steve met his wife Margaret to whom he was married for 55 years, and together they raised a family and enjoyed a full and varied social life in and around Ipswich.

Steve will be long remembered for his warm personality, generosity of spirit and incredible energy which combined to make him a truly "larger than life" character and a well known and popular local figure.

From the General Manager's Office

It's been a hectic six months with our new enlarged dining room in full swing.

We have however decided to cap the Speakers Lunches at 50 due to logistical reasons. But otherwise we carry on at 60+ for all other events including our ever increasing weekend wedding business.

You will have noticed there have been some recent staff changes, so do please bear with me for a time while new staff bed in.

I am now pushing ahead with small but important changes to ensure we are as energy efficient as possible.

As you may/may not know, the Dining Room has air-sourced heat pumps which have now been installed in the Bar and Pykenham Meeting Room.

The Bar now has upgraded LED lighting which alone saves 1KW per hour in energy and the heat pumps run on



1KW and generate 3KW heat output in the winter, just from the cold air outside. These upgrades will continue throughout the Club as each room has a revamp.

Our glass and cardboard/paper recycle bins have been well received and I encourage you to take advantage of this facility in the car park.

Finally I am pleased to report that we have responded to problems with some 2015 parking permits by producing higher quality versions for 2016.

Robert Coppin

On the Fabric Front...

Bonjour from the south of France where part of the fabric team is searching out ideas for improvement on the club (i.e. he is on holiday)

Meanwhile back at Northgate Street I can confirm that the Pykenham Room has been completely refurbished and now has WiFi, air conditioning, LED lighting, an audio visual screen and adjustable window blinds. With seating for 12, this now makes an excellent meeting room and members of the club are warmly encouraged to go and inspect the improvements.

We are now looking at the corridor leading to the Pykenham Room with a view to removing all the paint from the timber panels to expose the (hopefully) beautiful wood hidden under years of paint.

We have also refurbished an office suite which fronts onto Northgate Street where full internal and external redecoration is being undertaken, secondary double glazing, ultra-modern LED lighting and air conditioning and air-sourced heat pumps are also installed. A parking space is also being offered with this office. If it has not been let by the time you read this article please contact Robert.

We are also carrying out a phased programme of exterior decoration to the Northgate Street entrance and the dining room windows and will

eventually decorate the whole building. Then we will start again I presume like the old Forth Bridge.

To cope with the increase in function trade we are investing in a new kitchen range to ensure that we can deliver what is expected. This is like major heart surgery for the Club as we need to try and keep going during the changeover.

Richard Hawkins.

A Very Civil Wedding



Members Peter and Rosemary Bailey gave away their daughter Danielle on 13th June at a civil wedding in our Adam Room followed by a Champagne reception and wedding breakfast in our Dining Room for the family.

This was then followed by a large evening celebration with friends in our new extended Dining Room with music and dancing.

Snooker and Billiards News

My first thoughts in my first newsletter article is to say "Thank you" to David Green who has retired as Snooker Captain, a position which he has fulfilled over a closely guarded number of years.

For some unknown reason the committee elected me to be his replacement and I am just starting to find out how much of a hard act he will be to follow!

Congratulations to all who participated even though the Claude West final must rank alongside the longest ever staged!! Our thanks also go to our Chairman Stephen Firmin for presenting the prizes and also to Messrs Harmer, Johnson,



Jackson and Marjason for acting as referees. As usual they did an excellent job. A sweepstake for the Snooker Handicap was held successfully although again did not prove to be of interest to anybody other than the active snooker playing members. It has been decided to repeat it for this year's Competition.

The entry forms for the Winter 2015/16 competitions will be on the notice board from early August and there are opportunities for all levels of ability – please do enter.

Following the successful visit from the United Club of Guernsey a team from the I&S Club will be going to Guernsey in September and it is hoped that this can be established into a regular home and away event in the future.

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

The Winter 2014/15 competitions were completed on the Finals Evening on 30th April and the results were:		
Competition	Winner/s	Runner/s Up
Snooker Open	S.L. Johnston	A.E. Williams
Snooker Handicap	G.M. McLellan	R.M. Alexander
Norman Baynes Billiards	S.L. Johnston	G.M. McLellan
Claude West Snooker	A.D. Booth	V.E. Gray
Taylor Centenary Tankards	G.M. McLellan and R.V. Leeburn	J.A. Barr and R.H. Watson

Bridge Notes

There can only be one subject dominating these notes and that is the sad loss of the inspiration for our Club bridge, dear Steve Croucher.



Tim Hedley has kindly taken over the running of the Club's popular Tuesday morning Bridge Section.

We shall all miss his enthusiasm, humour, companionship and vast knowledge of the game.

We have lost one of life's true gentlemen, there are far too few left.

On the bright side, we still have Margaret playing with us on a more regular basis rather than as the fill-in role she so generously played.

However, I think we shall all miss the post-hand "discussions" we treasured when she played with Steve !

The bridge section continues to thrive with at least five tables being the minimum and seven or eight the more regular number.

I must thank all of those who help me keep the ball rolling but especially Steph Mallett and Nicola Buckingham.

Tim Hedley

Golf News



Great news - our team won the match in April against the might of Colchester Garrison. We managed two wins, and two matches lost, but thanks to "Hambro scoring" the victory was ours.

It was good to play again at Colchester Golf Club and we were looked after very well indeed by our Colchester Garrison hosts in their new club building - a great day was had by one and all.

In May our match against the Bury Farmers at Purdis was also a close run game with two matches all square and one game lost. However Bernard and Alfred had a good win, so I am delighted to report that we duly won back the Turnbull Trophy.

The Northgate Knockout Trophy is now well under way.

We are now looking forward to our golf day to be played over 18 holes at Purdis on Wednesday 2nd September, when we will compete for the Barnard 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 - and don't forget, you are very welcome to bring a golfing guest.

Allan Gosling



Elvis - lives

Two words made from the same letters!

New to your club - Scrabble evenings.

If you love playing with words and enjoy the game, or would just like a sociable evening then come and join us.

We start with a light supper and then play three games – each of 40 minutes.

Look out for dates on the Social Calendar.

From the Wine Committee...

We continue to sell out on the Wine Tasting evenings, which I hope is a sign that you all enjoy the events. We are always looking at ways to enhance those evenings and try something a little different. On the other hand we have some tried and tested events which are always popular.

Our Austrian wine evening in April was a first, and seemed to be much enjoyed. Perhaps a surprise for some!

We hope you also enjoyed the change to the traditional July, 'Bubbles' tasting event when we substituted some bubbles with some refreshing, still summer wines for the main courses.

For our new programme we have brought forward our popular 'Vintage



Club members enjoying excellent food and wine at the Summer Wine Event.

Wine Tasting' to September, and in November have included our generally riotous 'Call My Bluff', with Charles. The formal program ends in February with another chance to taste wines for potential inclusion on the Club list.

Your wine committee is also active in supporting other Club events, sourcing some Russian Wines to complement

our Club Russian night in March, and for the Latin Night in July. We try to make recommendations for wine for many of the Club themed nights. We hope you enjoy the proposed wines, some of which may be new to you. We very much look forward to your company over the next few months.

Bruce Murrill

Ladies' Charity Fashion Show

Last March, the Club once again hosted another enjoyable evening of fashion and fundraising.

Lady members and their guests enjoyed a delicious meal and watched models wearing a range of Spring/Summer outfits from Coes Womenswear.

In the Adam Room, there was also the chance to browse from a selection of accessories from the store.

We are delighted to report that almost £700 was raised for Genesis Orwell Mencap. CEO Nino Serritiello was invited to the Club to receive our donation, when he expressed his sincere appreciation to all those ladies who attended the event and to Coes for their involvement.

I should like to add my sincerest thanks to all who came along to support the evening and to Fiona Coe and her team at Coes for their contribution.

As always, I am hugely indebted to Rosemary Holley for her invaluable assistance and all her efforts in organising another very successful raffle.

The Club looks forward to hosting another charity event on 4th November,

this time with a difference! We are planning our first Fashion and Gift Fair, comprising a fashion show in the Adam Room, a chance to browse a variety of stalls selling homeware, accessories and gifts - difficult to imagine as I write this on a balmy July evening - but Christmas will soon be on its way!

Tickets are priced at £25, which includes welcome drinks, substantial buffet with wine and a donation to Bumblebee, a local charity offering vital support to disabled children and their families.

Please do come along and enjoy fashions, food, festive shopping plus the opportunity to support an exceptional local charity.

Carole Booth



Carole Booth (left) and Rosemary Holley presenting a cheque for £661 to Genesis Orwell Mencap Chief Executive Nino Serritiello.

Book Group 2

The inaugural meeting of the Ipswich & Suffolk Club's second Book Group took place in April.

Since then we have met regularly on the third Wednesday of the month at 10.15am and now have a healthy group of avid readers who enjoy different genres and contribute to some very lively discussions.

Our first book was Colm Toibin's novel *Nora Webster* which led to a fascinating variety of viewpoints, issues and questions raised.

We then looked at *How to be Both* by Ali Smith, followed by a novel by Rosie Thomas and a selection of autobiographies and biographies.

In August and September we look forward to reading and discussing *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins and a book by Gervase Phinn.

Our mornings are always successfully rounded up when we meet afterwards to enjoy a drink in the bar and lunch together in the Pine Room.

So if you would like to give our book group a try, why not join us, you would be made most welcome.

Mo Stiles