

From the (new) Chairman . . .



2009/10 Club Chairman, Bruce Murrill

First I would like to wish you all a belated Happy New year and thank you for your continued support of the club. I would also like to thank Richard Hawkins for his excellent stewardship of the club over the past two years. He has handed over to me a club which is firing on all cylinders, and he will be a hard act to follow.

As I contemplated my term in office it was inevitable that I looked back over the last few years to understand how the club has progressed. And progress it has, significantly. There is definitely a 'buzz' around the club

these days. We are in rude health financially, whilst still allocating funds to update and maintain our beautiful building. We have a highly efficient manager and team running the club, and caring for it on a day to day basis. We have a full program of social activities, which are increasingly well attended. We have a membership who care for the club and with whom it is a pleasure to socialize. The question I asked myself was 'how can it be improved?'

My first thoughts were that we need to continue the good work already in train, building on those items outlined in Richard's recent annual letter, and continue to update and maintain the club in first class condition. In a building such as ours, there is always something that needs attention, it is usually expensive, and in many cases it is not always visible to the members. Of course, I already have some ideas for where we need to invest, but these are currently subject to more discussion and planning.

Maintaining our profitability is a major requirement of being able to continue this.

However, the latter is only achievable if the membership uses the club, and the events we run continue to be enjoyable (and affordable in today's environment) and well attended. Thus our focus must continue to be on our membership and their experiences

at the club. We should also be focusing on ways to maintain, and slightly increase, overall membership, to counter normal membership attrition.

While I think we do run a very good social program, there is always room for improvement, new ideas and events, new ways of doing things, and new facilities that might improve our relevance. I would like to encourage all our members to be more vocal in what you would like to see in our program, and at the club. Only by telling us your thoughts, can we consider and prioritize improvement. Please feel free to contact me or Robert, or any other member of your Board, with your ideas, so that we can continue this process.

Finally I would like to thank the members who put in much of their own time organizing and running events at the club. Bridge, snooker, golf, book club, the list goes on. These activities would not happen without committed support from some key members. If you would like to be involved in helping to run these, or other activities, please don't be shy. There is always a vacancy to help with maintaining the vitality and vibrancy of the club.

I am very much looking forward to an exciting two years as your Chairman, and hope to meet most of you at one of our many social events.

Bruce Murrill

Hello and goodbye . . .

We are sure you would like to join us in welcoming local businesswoman Trudi Nicholls, the first Lady Director in the club's history, and Solicitor Stephen Firmin who will bring their valuable expertise to the Club Board.

And as we say hello, sadly we must also say goodbye to two long-standing directors who have resigned their positions after 40 years joint service. Their sterling efforts throughout their directorships are greatly appreciated by the membership and their expertise will be much missed at future meetings.



Newly appointed Director, Trudi Nicholls



Outgoing Directors, Bob Wright and David Wass

Goodbye to “Mike” Mulley

It was with great sadness that a large turnout of club members attended the funeral of “Mike” Mulley on 6 November 2008. Mike died on 25th October after a short spell in hospital. He would have reached his 100th birthday on 5th February 2009 and would have been, it is thought, the first member of the Club to do so – he had dearly hoped to have achieved that goal. We all miss him not lunching each day (courtesy of Sheila).

Mike had been a truly remarkable man. He was by profession a solicitor, yet in his time had been Chairman of the Ipswich and Felixstowe Water Companies (and it was his drive that secured the construction of Alton Reservoir), an officer of the British Waterworks Association, Chairman of the Public Works Congress Council and Mayor of Ipswich. His well-earned civil honours included Freeman of the Borough of Ipswich and the CBE.

Many local golfers also remember him as the man that rescued the ailing Felixstowe Golf Club, having chaired the committee that transformed its fortunes and turned it into the successful members club that it is today.

Yet Mike always thought himself fortunate to have survived a war in which his escapades included being blown up at El Alamein and later being landed by submarine in Yugoslavia to liaise with Tito's partisans. Unfortunately, Mike's innate modesty prevented him giving the full account of his military exploits that many of us would have dearly loved to hear.

His funeral at St Mary le Tower Church was well attended and included numerous members of the Club. The Mayor and Mayoress with representatives of the Freemen of the Borough of Ipswich were present together with a representative of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers of which Mike had been a member for over 40 years. It was especially appropriate that the service was conducted by club members Canon Charles Jenkin and Canon Ted Wells.

Tributes were paid to Mike by Canon Jenkin, Trevor Mason, the Captain of Felixstowe Golf Club (of which Mike had twice been Captain himself) and Tom Munro for our Club. The choir of St Mary le Tower were also superb under the expert direction of Dr Michael Nicholas. Afterwards the event was concluded with refreshments at the club for which Club Manager Robert and Bar Manager Sheila deserve our thanks.

Gerry Barnes – *Club President*



Mike Mulley 1909-2008

General Manager's Report . . .

The Club staff have worked tirelessly to strengthen the stability of the club over the past six months since our last newsletter and I hope your new Social Calendar will bring you all that you expect and deserve due to your continued loyalty.

Spring will be here soon and the gardens will get a much needed makeover to lift the spirits, along with the Reading Room refurbishment which thanks to Mr Mulley now has some superb new leather chairs which will be appreciated by many, and with which we will remember him fondly. The staff without exception hold the memory of Mr Mulley in very high regard. Sheila is looking forward to completion of the bar decoration as she is longing to look through the new window into the reading room to keep an eye on you all. After 30 years of loyal service Sheila deserves a new bar as she is one of those people who have a true love for our club. Denis and Paul will have new walls, shelving, and equipment to use in the kitchen, in a program of improvement that will improve overall hygiene standards and conditions of work. The most significant project in 2009, will be the installation of a new heating boiler planned for April. This will save the club over £1,000 per annum in gas and make the club much more comfortable.

Our new Chairman Bruce Murrill and I will be working on changes to the snooker rooms, toilets, developments in computer software to assist social bookings, car parking, subscriptions, and catering – all areas in which you may confidently expect to enjoy substantial improvements in the very near future.

The staff and I thoroughly enjoy working at the club for you and I cannot emphasise how much it is appreciated when you thank them for a job well done. Your trust in us when you book that special function will never be taken for granted.

Robert Coppin - *Club General Manager*

Membership News

As a club we are often looking at ways to improve our membership numbers to ensure the club's success and continuity so here are a couple of 'special incentives' we hope you will consider.

Joint Membership

If your spouse or partner is not a full member of the club, why not give them a present of full membership. For just £40 they could have full membership rights between now and the renewal of subscriptions in September. That would include full parking privileges, full use of club facilities including lunching with friends etc.

Also between now and September we would like to recruit a further 20 new members. If you are considering suggesting membership to a friend or colleague please contact Robert to find out about the 'Recruit New Members' incentive now available.

Lastly if you entertain a non-member at the club or know someone who may be interested in joining, there is now a supply of prospective membership packs in reception which we would ask you to use when appropriate.



Our heartiest congratulations go to long-standing member of the club Canon E Wells MBE, who will shortly be honoured with Maundy Money from Her Majesty the Queen, in recognition of his service to both church and community.

Snooker News . . .

The Winter Knockout Competitions are proceeding well with matches generally played on time. When arranging your matches, please do remember to check the diary. The Club continues to win more matches than we lose and we have been pleased to welcome Woodbridge Golf Club as new opponents each Spring and Autumn. We have also added an experimental fixture against representatives of the Ipswich & District League on 14th May 2009 where I will be seeking the support of our best players to play for the Club.



The time has come for me to retire as Captain of Snooker and play more snooker instead of organizing it. I am therefore actively seeking a replacement to take over the role then with assistance from the four other members of the Snooker Committee.

We have in place simple computer based systems and 60 of the 64 players are on email. We enjoy very effective backup from Club Officials and Staff. I would be quite prepared to become a Committee Member if required by my successor. I also have some ideas about amending the present systems and separating the responsibility for the Annual Competitions from that for matches and general administration thus making every position less work intensive for those concerned. It would be logical to postpone any amendments until my successor is able to consider them first. I would like to retire at the end of the current "season" in May 2009.

I welcome contact from all Members interested in assisting with this important aspect of the Club's sporting activities.

David Green - 01473 226794 or email davjan7@ntlworld.com

From the Wine Committee

We had a very interesting series of wine tastings in 2008, which finished in November with an excellent 'Vintage Years' tasting, which was again sold out.

Our initial plans for our 2009 program are starting to take shape. The first wine tasting of 2009 was on February 27th. An evening was spent sampling the gastronomic and oenological delights of Italy. We had some excellent Italian food, equally matched with appropriate and interesting wines. Another sell out.



On May 22nd we will host our first Mediterranean themed event, with wines from the diverse collection of countries around the med, which we feel sure will titillate your taste buds and perhaps deliver a surprise or two.

And for July 3rd, we will be identifying new bubbles not previously sampled, to match with an excellent, summer-themed, food extravaganza. This, of course, is our ever popular Champagne and Strawberries evening. Early booking is definitely advised.

We look forward to welcoming you to join us at our series of fun (and slightly raucous) evenings throughout the year.

Club Golf

Welcome to the start of another golfing year at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club.

Firstly a quick recap on the two club golf competitions held in 2008:

The club annual individual golf knock out for the Northgate Trophy was won in 2008 by David Tuckwell, with the runner-up being Crawford Gillan.

And the annual Golf Day at Purdis was held on 1st October, with the winner was in fact myself (Allan Gosling), with Jim Barr and Peter Shepherd close behind in second and third place respectively.

A most enjoyable day was had by all those who entered and Denis and the team provided an excellent steak dinner, back at Northgate Street in the evening.

For 2009 there will be a full programme of competition starting as early as February when all players are invited to put their names on the list on the club sporting notice board for this year's matchplay knock out. Please sign up as soon as possible so we can get the first round under way in the early spring,

Other fixtures include:

15th April Match v Colchester Garrison Officers Club for the Colarch Trophy.

15th June Match V Bury Farmers for the Turnbull Cup.

September (date TBC) for the Club Annual golf day at Purdis.

If you would like to play in any of the competitions, I would, as always, be delighted to hear from you.

Yours in golf - **Allan Gosling**

A Little Snippet from Fabric

Members who have visited the club recently will have noticed new chairs and bookcase in the reading room. These were purchased out of the generous legacy kindly left to the club by Mike Mulley. Both the bar and reading room are shortly to be refurbished with new curtains and decoration. This work should start towards the end of February.

Other works being undertaken include some improvements to the kitchen area as requested by the Environmental Health Department!

Horticulturists amongst you will note that the gardens are being tidied up and some replanting undertaken.

The club was also left a legacy by Stella Ball and this money is being put towards some new equipment for the snooker rooms.

Richard Hawkins - *Housemistress*

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. These include Trafalgar Night, our ever popular Vintage Wine Evening and of course the Annual Members' Dinner.

The programme of events for the coming year can be found in your Club Social Calendar and we respectfully recommend early booking for all events to avoid disappointment.



◀The Club's Annual Trafalgar Night Dinner

Reciprocal Clubs▶
Golf Captain Allan Gosling and his wife outside the British Club, Bangkok.



◀Speakers Lunch
Colin Fox gave an entertaining talk on street names of Ipswich.

Bridge Christmas Lunch▶
The Tuesday morning Bridge Club meet for their annual lunch.



The Annual Members' Dinner
This popular event was as always well attended and a good time was had by one and all.



Joint Membership

This is an excellent time to upgrade your membership to include your spouse or partner.

The cost is £40.00 + VAT for the remaining membership year.

Interested? Contact General Manager Robert Coppin.

Your Club Contacts:

General Manager Robert Coppin • Club Chef Denis Groualle

Restaurant Supervisor Linda Sparkes • Bar Manager Sheila Studd

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