

Greetings from the Chair...

May I start by wishing all members and their families a belated Happy New Year.

As you will have seen from the Club's annual accounts, continued high membership combined with active use of the Club's facilities, has helped us to strengthen our financial position over the past year.

Let's hope that the Club will enjoy another successful year in 2011 and we continue to go from strength to strength.

Embarking on a two year stint as Chairman of an institution that has just celebrated its 125th anniversary, one is struck by two things. Firstly, in the grand scheme of things, two years is a relatively short period of time! Secondly, and more importantly, the real challenge is to ensure that the Club can adapt and prosper in a changing world so as to be able to continue to meet members' needs long into the future. This is an appropriate time for me to acknowledge the achievements of my two predecessors, Bruce Murrill and Richard Hawkins, who have worked

so successfully with Robert Coppin since Robert's arrival at the Club, to get the Club into the position where it is today.

As someone who is a firm believer in the pragmatic school of management ("if it isn't broke, don't fix it!") my intention is to continue what has been successful in recent years. So I will be working closely with Robert to see that we continue to listen to members' views and we support those members who willingly give of their own time to organise a diverse range of activities in which the wider membership can participate.

I also urge all members to continue the current high levels of club usage and take up of social events. However, I would strongly encourage you to try and commit early for events in the new Social Calendar as, based on previous experience, they are likely to sell out very quickly!

After serving for the last eight years as a director, I am very much looking forward to the next two years as Chairman and hope to have the chance to meet many of you at the various social events. If for any



2010/11 Club Chairman, Martin Wood

reason, any member wishes to contact me directly on any matter, please feel free to do so at martingwood@hotmail.com

Martin Wood
Chairman

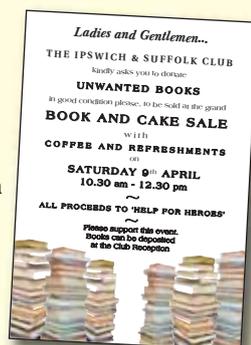
Books for Heroes

What better way to spend a Saturday morning than to browse through a huge selection of books and enjoy delicious cakes and coffee – all whilst raising money for a good cause?

Well, on Saturday April 9th at 10 am, you will be able to do just that, when the club hosts a Grand Book Sale and Coffee Morning - all in aid of Help for Heroes.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to this particularly worthwhile charity which was founded in 2007 out of a desire to help wounded men and women returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Help for Heroes is a strictly non-political and non-critical organisation whose founders believe that anyone who volunteers in a time of war, knowing they are risking all is a hero and therefore deserves our support.

So if you would like to support the heroes, all you have to do is donate your good condition unwanted books (please leave them in the box in reception) then support us again by joining us for the book sale on April 9th.



From the Wine Committee

Following some very well attended wine tasting sessions in 2010, we began our program for 2011 on Friday February 18th, with a sell-out "Tastes of South America" event, where we drank some lovely New World wines, complemented by delicious food from around the area.

On May 20th, we return to Europe when we travel to the southern regions of France and sample some of the lesser known grapes, and enjoy a menu of authentic French cuisining, prepared by our very own authentic French Chef Denis.

And please don't forget our ever popular bubbles and strawberries evening which takes place on July 15th. I strongly advise an early booking to avoid disappointment.

The Wine Committee looks forward to once again raising a glass with you soon...



Fabric report

We are delighted to report that work both inside and outside the club continues apace.

Externally the building certainly looks much smarter since it had its Tower street elevation repainted, and this good work will be continued in 2011 with a repainting of the Northgate Street side beginning in the spring.

The expensive business of maintaining our enormous roof is also being carried out in manageable (and affordable) chunks, starting with the garages and the flat roofing adjacent to the Manager's office. A five year plan for the maintenance of the main roof has also been instigated, which we are confident will stop any possibility of large roofing bills cropping up and taking us by surprise.

Inside, the refurbishment of the Dining Room and ladies lavatory are both complete and we now look forward to refurbishing the Pine Room (including new new gas central heating,) with the Adam Room scheduled for later in the year.

And as an item of historical interest, members may well like to check out the new "Past Chairmen" board which lists all the Chairmen of the club since 1885.

Finally we are pleased to report that a new tenant has been found for the office suite at the top of the main stairs, namely Piers Venmore-Rowland, who has also become a club member.

Trudi Nicholls and Richard Hawkins
House Mistress and House Master

Read all about it

The club book group will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of every month (July and August excepted,) to discuss their chosen works of literature.

The books selected for the next four meetings are:

2 March -

Any Novel by Robert Harris

6 April -

Medical Biography by any writer

4 May - Any novel by Rose Tremain

1 June -

"The Betrayal" by Helen Dunmore



To find out more, please contact Robert Coppin at the club or call 01473 252095

A note from the President

2010 ended on a fine note so far as the Club was concerned. Most events were over booked and two in particular are worthy of special mention.

The 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Club was celebrated by a special dinner. The speaker was Dr John Blatchly who gave a very appropriate talk in his inimitable style, drawing from his impressive wealth of knowledge. However, I do not think that changing the name of the Club premises from Archdeacon's House to Doctor's House, as he with tongue in cheek suggested, would receive the approval of members! For those members who were not able to attend the dinner and did not see the articles that he wrote in the East Anglian Daily Times, copies in laminated form can be found in the reading room.

The second event, which I am pleased to report received a record turnout, on a wintery night, was the Club Carol Service in the splendid St Mary le Tower Church. We are so fortunate to have as members of the Club, the Vicar, Canon Charles Jenkin, the Director of Music, Dr Michael Nicholson and the Organist, Dr Giles Brightwell. We are indebted to them for finding time in their busy schedule to arrange and conduct the service.

As a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all our staff, who under the excellent leadership of Robert, have worked so hard in December to ensure that the large number of events in the month were such a great success.

Gerry Barnes - Club President

General Manager's review of the past six months



I am astonished to find that it is now coming up to five years since I took over the General Manager's position! The time has gone so fast, largely because I have enjoyed every moment, so thank you all for making my first half decade such a pleasurable experience.

The past six months has been hectic with our 125th anniversary year, subscriptions, and of course the programme of Christmas celebrations. And despite the particularly inclement weather towards the end of the year I am pleased to report that thanks to members' continued support our events all proved to be a great success. For me, the most notable event in 2010 was the Club Carol Service which drew a record attendance and appeared to generate a particularly warm and festive feeling on the night (or was it the mulled wine?) - which, if we remember, is what Christmas is all about. The St Mary Le Tower Church team who did so much to make the evening such a special one have asked me to pass on their grateful thanks for our contribution.

The 125 year celebrations have also prompted me to take measures to preserve valuable information about the club for future generations.

We now therefore have computer archives of notable functions, significant events and details of membership all securely stored on computer discs for the future. These include events such as the 1885 Anniversary Dinner and copies of documents like this newsletter.

The new snooker championship and past Charimen's boards, which can be found in the snooker room and entrance hall respectively, also provide interesting historical information for members and visitors to the club.

I am very much looking forward to the challenge of the next six months as the club competes with many other establishments for your patronage. Our team has performed brilliantly and I am acutely aware that I cannot operate our club without their full support which they always provide. The staff do enjoy their work and are all grateful to those of you who show their appreciation with a few kind words.

Robert Coppin - Club General Manager

Bridge news

The 2010 club bridge year was without doubt enhanced by the new trophy which is presented to the player with the highest average score over a minimum of twenty playing sessions.

Congratulations go to Don Betts, the inaugural winner of the trophy. Don achieved an average of 55.3 % from 32 sessions, despite having played with ten different partners! The highest attendance was from Maureen Betts with 47 sessions from a possible 51. Well done Maureen.

There were 47 players, including one off visitors, who attended the bridge sessions over the year, with 26 qualifying for entry into the trophy competition. During the year we achieved an average attendance of 5.3 tables which was improvement on last year's 5 tables. However, I must apologize to all those members, (particularly the snooker players) who may be in the vicinity of the bar at approximately 11.10am on Tuesday mornings. They may have been subjected to an increase in noise levels as the players discuss hands and debate contracts, bid and leads made, as they come down for their coffee break. I am afraid it is all part and parcel of this wonderful game of bridge!

Finally, I would like to thank all of the bridge members for their kind invitation to the Christmas lunch on Tuesday 21st December. Their generous gifts of a beautiful floral arrangement for my wife Margaret, who often comes down at short notice to make up table numbers, and the case of excellent claret for myself, were both very gratefully received.

A happy new year to you all.



New Croucher Bridge Trophy was presented to the first recipient by Steve Croucher to Don Betts.

Marketing news

Following the success of the Club theatre evenings, we are delighted to have arranged a similar dine & attend evening with the Ipswich Orchestral Society (IOS) at one of their hugely successful series of concerts.

For classical music lovers this is a must and the first concert can be seen on the 25th of June when the renowned clarinet virtuoso Emma Johnson (past winner of The BBC Young Musician of the Year) will be performing. Please see the social calendar for further details.

Membership of the club now stands around the 490 mark but your club does need younger members in order to ensure its future viability and regrettably there are still very few members under 35.

Robert would love to have the opportunity to arrange interesting activity based events such as gliding, or diving for the younger members so please do look out for likely candidates. Please also remember that anyone who introduces and nominates a new club member will receive club vouchers to the value of £25.

And finally, if you have any new ideas or suggestions as to how we could continue or indeed improve upon the success of the club, please do not hesitate to contact either Robert or myself

Stan Gaskin - Director

Club Golf

In 2010 we had two excellent inter-club matches and I am pleased to report that we managed to win both the Priarch Trophy versus Colchester Garrison Club and the Turnbull Cup against The Bury Farmers Club.

Our own golf day at Purdis for the Barnard Cup in mid September was won by Norman Conder, closely followed in second place by Richard Dewar and with Allan Williams in third.

We had a good turnout and game followed by an excellent meal at the I&S Club so please do look out for this year's fixture when the date has been set, and don't miss out on one of the most enjoyable events in the club calendar.

The Club knockout for the Northgate Trophy is still a little behind schedule due to regrettably delays caused by illness, holidays and poor weather and at the time of going to press we are still waiting the final to be played.

And finally, we are currently working on the 2011 fixtures against Colchester Garrison and Bury Farmers, and I will be contacting a number of you asking you to represent your club in due course.

Looking forward to another good golfing year.

Allan Gosling



Snooker & Billiards News

The Winter Knockout Competitions are proceeding and Members efforts to play matches promptly are much appreciated.

We have a new event on our 2011 Programme. Dick Berresford suggested and organized a Christmas Lunch and Knockout competition for those members who play on Tuesday evenings. It took place in early December 2010 and the Competition was won by Bruce Murrill and Allan Williams. The 16 participants thoroughly enjoyed the occasion which will now be a regular item on the club sporting Calendar

I always welcome suggestions for additional activities and we will do our best to accommodate all ideas where there is a demand. All Club Members are welcome to use the snooker facilities and in particular, are invited to attend the "Club evening" on Tuesdays. For this reason, the tables may not be booked for private or competition matches which may continue or start after 5.00pm on Tuesdays. The same also applies to Matchday Thursdays (shown on the current Programme) for obvious reasons. The snooker facilities have been further improved with the old long and half butts being replaced by a telescopic cue and rest set, one in each room located on the side of the snooker table nearest to the door.

I receive valuable help from a team of ten Committee Members who are shown below with their responsibilities:

Jim Barr - Bill Allin and Cooper Tankard Knockout Competitions.

Lewis Johnston and David Parkinson - Annual Knockout Competitions.

Melvyn Eke, David Goldsmith, George McLellan, Jim Savage, Malcolm Stredwick and Allan Williams - Match Skippers and Organisers.

John Marjason - "Minister without portfolio"

I thank them all for their considerable help over the past year.

David Green
01473-226794

email - davjan7@ntlworld.com

General Manager - Robert Coppin

Club Chef - Denis Groualle

Restaurant Supervisor - Linda Sparkes

Bar Manager - Sheila Studd

Recent Club Events

Since our last newsletter, there have been a large number of highly successful event held at the club, some of which have been captured on camera. These include a Charity Fashion Show, a Book Club Lunch, a visit to Trinity House and the Blatchley Speaking event.

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



◀ Trinity House Visit

Hi-visibility wear was *de rigueur* for the club Trinity House visit.

Burns' Night ▶ Dinner

The Bard of Ayrshire was honoured in suitable Scottish style at the club Burns' Night.



◀ Book Club Lunch

Ladies who read enjoying a spot of lunch and a chat about the latest publications.

Charity Fashion Show ▶

Over £750 was raised for Breakthrough Breast Cancer Suffolk at our charity fashion show.

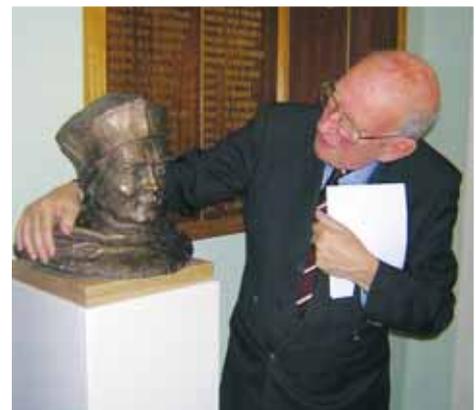


◀ Oldest member celebrates

Our oldest member, Dick Upshall, celebrates his 97th birthday in the club dining room.

Dr Blatchly speaks out ▶

Dr John Blatchly gave a fascinating 125th anniversary talk to a capacity crowd.



Joint Membership

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

The initial cost is £50.00 - Interested? Contact General Manager Robert Coppin.

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