

## Here We Go Again...

**Welcome one and all to the March 2014 edition of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club Newsletter.**

The club year is now well and truly under way, which means I have begun my second and final year as Club Chairman – a role which I am surprised and delighted to report that I have actually begun to rather enjoy.

For example, as Chairman I have been invited to play in a disproportionately large number of snooker matches, not withstanding my lack of any significant talent.

This means that I am able to rub shoulders with a splendid bunch of blokes which includes within their number, club snooker legends such as David Green, Lewis Johnston, George McLellan and of course, the great John Marjason.

Away from the tables John is to all intents and purposes a mild-mannered retired bank manager, but stick him adjacent to the green baize with five feet of cue in his hand and he is transformed into a steely-eyed gladiator, who will give no quarter in his quest to demolish the opposition.

John can of course be seen in action almost every day of the week and I urge anyone who has yet to sample the delights of club snooker to give it a go,

because this really is a great opportunity to enjoy the finest snooker facility in the county, good company and a drink or two. And who knows - you may even receive the call to represent your club against the lesser-mortals from the Bury Farmers Club in our annual inter-club snooker match!

On the subject of snooker players it would be remiss of me not to mention the sad loss of a long-standing member Dick Upshall who died at the ripe old age of 99, having regularly played well into his mid 90s.

We were of course all hoping that Dick would become the first member to make 100 but alas, it wasn't to be and he joins Bill Conder and Mike Mulley in the select list of good men who very nearly made it.

On a more mundane note, we have just held my last AGM as Chairman (hoorah) and despite a lengthy debate about the exciting subject of the Club Articles of Association, I am pleased to report that all appears to be well and the Club is in fine financial fettle.

Which is just as well because my friend and colleague Mr R Hawkins, has just announced that a planning application for our dining room extension has been dispatched and with a fair wind and a sympathetic ear at the planning committee, we may be able to welcome



an additional twenty or so of you to the next Annual Members' Dinner.

And on that bombshell I shall sign off and say how much I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at events throughout the coming year.

**Andy Booth**  
*Chairman*

## A Note From the Club President

**The support of members to the varied social activities gives a good indication of the strength of the Club. I look forward to the proposed alterations to the Dining Room which will enable more to attend those functions which are so often oversubscribed.**

Space only allows me to mention a few items. Those attending the dinner in aid of Age UK Suffolk were entertained by a Patron of the organisation, the inimitable Charlie Haylock who was a great success. Regrettably the Rev Chris Gonin, a lunch speaker, was taken ill and unable to tell us about his father, Dr Mervyn Gonin, a past Chairman of the Club, and who was a Lt.Col. in the Medical Corps during the



**Club President, Gerry Barnes.**

war and the first doctor to be directed to the Belsen Concentration Camp. Robert managed to engage at the last moment Dr Patrick Thompson who gave a highly amusing account of his extraordinary life, particularly at Buckingham Palace, all in aid of his charity.

The Annual Members' Dinner was again a great success and well over subscribed. The highlight was the provision of a box for Standley Gaskin to stand on to put him on level terms with the turkey he was carving on the sideboard!

The seventh Club Carol Service was much appreciated by a large number of Club members, who between them achieved a record attendance.

Once more we are very much indebted to Canon Charles Jenkin, Mr William Baldry who directed the choristers of St. Mary-le-Tower and the organist Mr Nicholas Freestone for organising and arranging the event.

Finally we were sorry to lose Dick Upshall, a regular morning snooker player. He joined the other 99 year-olds, Mike Mulley and Bill Conder, in missing becoming the first member of the Club to reach his centenary.

**Gerry Barnes.**

## From the General Manager's office

Firstly thank you for taking the time to read my regular column. In this edition I will be frank (as you all know I am) and to the point.

Despite many financial pundits quoting the UK is now in recovery, I have yet to see this within our club and the general hospitality sector. Sadly we have lost some other notable UK clubs in 2013 who did not tackle the effects of the economic downturn until too late.

However, due to our continued efforts to cut costs and seek out business opportunities, we have fared better than most but have still taken a financial hit on the catering in 2013 as you would have seen in our accounts.

Thanks to our forward planning and the hard work of the Club Team, we are still in a strong financial position and pushing hard on future developments that I believe will secure the future of the club.

We are about to apply for a Civil Wedding Licence for our stunning Adam Room which I consider is one of the best rooms in Ipswich for such a special occasion.



This will open up many opportunities for the Club to support our modest subscription rates when compared with other such clubs, and the ongoing programme of maintenance and significant improvements to the Northgate Street building and grounds. This development will hopefully link with our plans to expand the Dining Room that is now being considered by Ipswich Borough Council.

I have determined that 2014 will be the year when I will sort out the various niggles that I have been unable to grasp in past years. So please be patient and be assured that over the next few years we will all see the benefits in real improvements to the overall quality of your membership.

**Robert Coppin - General Manager.**

## Ladies' Charity Fashion Show

On 24th October the club once again played host to a wonderful evening of fashion and fundraising.



Maureen Gerber joined us to launch her gorgeous 'Maura' range of clothing and accessories, in addition Jane Fosdike of Bijou boutique presented an exciting range of Autumn/Winter fashions and accessories. Over £550 was raised for the Saint Elizabeth Hospice.

My thanks go to all those who came along to support the event and to Teresa McLellan for her invaluable assistance.

Grateful thanks are also due to Pauline Young and Rosemary Holley for their support and in organizing the raffles.

The Ipswich and Suffolk Club looks forward to hosting our Spring/Summer Charity Fashion Show on 24th April when

Rachel's Boutique of Hadleigh will be presenting their latest collection. There will also be an opportunity to see accessories from the new Maura range. As always, you will be able to buy items from the collections after the show.

Tickets are priced at £30 which includes welcome drinks, canapés, a two course meal with wine and a donation to The Papworth Trust. This Cambridge-based charity provides a range of indispensable services for disabled and disadvantaged people, most notably funding support workers to help and assist with independent living at home.



Please do come along to welcome in a new season, and enjoy the opportunity to support an exceptionally worthy cause.

**Carole Booth.**

## Book Club

The Ipswich and Suffolk Book Club continues to meet on Wednesday mornings in the Adam Room.

After visiting Kabul with Khaled Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* in November the Book Club dipped into classic thrillers in December.

In January we read the Ethiopian-based *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese and this month (February) we will tackle any book by Rosie Thomas.

As always all members are very welcome to join the weekly sessions chaired by Mary Gaskin and commencing at 10.15.

## On the Fabric Front...

The most exciting news is that we have now applied for planning consent to extend the main dining room which we hope will be approved for works to commence in August.



This will be a vast improvement for our dining arrangements as this will hopefully take our seating to 64 diners with potential for a small dance floor and band area.

In support of the above we have just completed the kitchen and stores expansion. This has also enabled us to refurbish a derelict area into an office which is let to a fellow member.

To enable you to further enjoy our new gardens and terrace area in the summer, we are about to install a new awning over the bar windows which will also assist with controlling the high summer temperatures and evening sunshine in the Bar.

Our plans for the future will also include a new electronic car park security system that will be operated by your membership card. This will help with the non member parking problems we have and padlocks which we all know have caused Robert some consternation.

**Richard Hawkins.**



# Bridge Club

**The Bridge Club has enjoyed another excellent year with average attendance of six tables at the Tuesday morning sessions.**

We extend a warm welcome to Richard Barrett who joined us in November, and who I very much hope is enjoying his bridge with us.

My congratulations to Lesley Norton who is this year's winner of the Bridge Trophy with 56.8%.

And of course commiserations to the runner-up Glenis Moxon who achieved 56%, just ahead of last year's winner, Don Betts with 55.4%

Thirty-three of the total membership of forty qualified for entry to the trophy competition, the winner being the player with the highest average percentage over the 12 months

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Bridge Club members for inviting both myself and Margaret to a splendid Christmas lunch at the club on the 17th December.



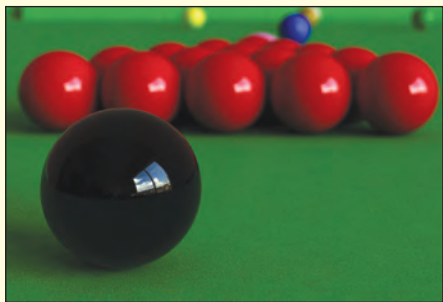
**Steve Croucher congratulates winning bridge player Lesley Norton.**

The organiser this year was Jean Lusher who after lunch gave a very amusing speech, and then presented a delightful hamper to Margaret and a selection of fine wine to myself.

Here's to a great 2014.

**Steve Croucher.**

# Snooker and Billiards News



**The 2013/14 Snooker & Billiards Competitions are in full swing and I am grateful to George McLellan for organising competitions and David Goldsmith for persuading those competitors as necessary to play their matches in time.**

The winners of the Autumn Cooper Tankards were Bruce Murrill and John Rendle. The winners of the Dick Berresford Mardi Bash were Robin Watson and Malcom Stredwick. Congratulations to them all.

We continue to enjoy a good support for all our snooker activities and I am grateful to those of you who organise and play in our matches. However, although there are 65 of you on my list, there are only about 40 who are available for selection. I do realise that there are specific reasons for some not being able to play but it is also possible that some who are not invited would like to be. There are about 8 of us who skipper the matches and select their own teams and it would be easy for somebody to not be selected without anybody noticing. Our

policy is that everybody irrespective of ability who would like to play should be invited to do so. Matches are always on Thursday evenings and the only matches where we try to field our strongest teams are those against Bury Farmers and East Bergholt U.S.C. If you receive my emails, you are on my list. If you do not get invitations to play and would like to, please ring me on 01473 226794. All matches involve matches before and after supper, (usually a modestly-priced three course meal) and the whole essence is that everybody should enjoy the evening – and from all reports, they do !

We are also seeking more Club members to join us, either in the annual competitions, playing in the matches or on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The most common reason for not playing given to me is that members are not good enough. I do stress that ability does not matter. If you start playing regularly, your play will definitely improve and we will try to help you where required and all are involved as much or little as they wish to be. We have both regular and irregular "Tuesday & Wednesday Nighters". If you are interested, please do ring me on the number above.

The Club's snooker facilities are of an excellent quality and the envy of those that visit us. They are available to all Club members irrespective of whether you are on my list or not but please do make use of the Snooker Diary on the table outside the bar to avoid disappointment.

**David Green.**

# Golf News

**Our annual golf day at Purdis in September was a great success. No less than 28 players attended making it one of our largest turnouts in recent years and a great day's golf was enjoyed by one and all.**

The results were as follows:

In first place Andy Booth (our Club Chairman) came in with 42 points, followed by Bernard Clarke with 41 points and Russell Leeburn, a close third with 38 points.



**Captain of Golf Allan Gosling presents the winner's trophy to Andy Booth.**

As always the day was rounded off by an excellent steak dinner in our Club Restaurant.

Please make a note in your diary that this year's Annual Golf Day will be held on Wednesday 3rd September. Please look out for the list that will be posted on the sporting notice board about three months before the event or contact me by email at: [a@allangosling.com](mailto:a@allangosling.com)

In our annual golf knockout for the Northgate Trophy, where we had twenty entrants, the winner was David Lawrence and the runner up was Allan Williams.

We are now in contact with Colchester Garrison and the Bury Farmers Club for this year's annual fixtures, for which teams of players will be needed.

Very best wishes for a good golfing year.

**Allan Gosling.**







## From the Vine Committee!

**Two down and three to come? The NZ wine tasting in September was well received as these particular evenings usually are. Our Vintage Wine Tasting evening in November was a hit also, with some very nice wines combining seamlessly with a well-constructed menu.**

Our upcoming Call My Bluff wine tasting, on the 21 Feb, is a sell out and one of the most popular and riotous of our events. This is the evening when we usually find out how little we know about wine; but at the end of the evening, nobody cares!

We also have a delight in store for you all (we hope) in April - a Turkish delight that is. From one of the oldest and least known areas of viniculture, we will be sourcing wines and typical foods for an evening of mystery! It will also be a mystery for the Wine Committee I am sure, but we will have a little local help!

Finally in June we have the seasonal Champagne and Strawberries evening which is always a good night.

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

**Bruce Murrill.**

## Welcome

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

Mr & Mrs Anthony & Jane Owen  
Mr Adrian Fairburn  
Mr Graham Brown  
Mr & Mrs Peter & Maureen Gerber  
Mrs & Mr Athene & Richard Barrett  
Mr Kristian Day, Mr Nicholas Bush  
Mr Adrian Game, Mrs Elizabeth King  
Mrs Sandra Moore  
Mrs Amanda Wheatley  
Mr & Mrs Alan & Carol Coy  
Mr John Barham, Mr John Rumsby

## Recent Club Events

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



**Annual Members' Dinner**  
Gentlemen of The Lodge enjoying the benefit of their very own 'PDR' at the Club Annual Dinner.



**Annual Members' Dinner**  
Club Directors Bruce Murrill and Standley Gaskin carving turkeys for AMD guests.



**Annual Golf Day**  
Gentlemen golfers enjoying a glass or three at the post-match dinner.



**Charlie Haylock Dinner**  
Club President Gerry Barnes with the multi-talented Charlie Haylock who astounded guests with his mastery of regional accents.



**Ladies' Charity Fashion Show**  
Lady members and their guests raised over £550 for the Saint Elizabeth Hospice charity.