

## Welcome from the new chairman

**This year marks the 20th anniversary of Linda & I joining The Ipswich & Suffolk Club and what a great honour and a privilege it is for me to take over as your Chairman.**

My first task is to thank my predecessor, Keith Fergusson, who has just finished his second term as Chairman. His sound handling of the pandemic fallout these past 2-years ensured our club came out the other side intact, and ready for the future. Thank you Keith, we owe you a great debt of gratitude.

I would also like to extend my thanks to our General Manager Robert Coppin, and our loyal Staff for their sacrifices, patience, and supreme efforts during Covid. Robert's fabled tenacity enabled us to receive all available Government support to get us through the crisis, without which the sound financial foundations of our club would have been significantly undermined. My thanks also go to Nicola Brett, the club Accounts Manager, for her monthly management reports which have kept your board fully informed on our financial situation.

Many of you will have become involved with one or more of the Snooker, Golf, Pilates, Ladies Lunches, Bridge and Book clubs. I hope these will now go from strength to strength and our thanks should be extended to the organisers who provide these additional opportunities to socialise with our fellow members – thank you to you all.

One of the first tasks of the incoming Chairman is to announce their selection of Vice Chairman and I can confirm that Sarah Swallow has accepted this role. Sarah started the Scrabble Club,

the Ladies Lunch Club and was appointed to the board in the summer of 2019. Thank you Sarah for stepping up to the plate and I look forward to working closely with you over the next 2-years.

As announced at our Annual Members dinner last December, our first for two years, Pauline Young has stepped down as our Club President after years of distinguished service. Pauline – thank you for everything you have done for the club during your tenure, first as Vice President and latterly as President. Succeeding Pauline is former Director & Chairman, Basil Tenwick, well known throughout the club for his ebullient personality and witty repartee. I am also very pleased to report that Sandra Moore has accepted my invitation to become Vice President. Good luck to both of you in your new roles.

At our recent AGM, two long-standing directors retired – Martin Wood & Bruce Murrill. Martin's retirement will allow him & Julie to spend more time on the ocean waves in their gin palace and I understand that Bruce and Gloria will become part of the travelling community in their new camper! The board extends its thanks to both of you for your input and wise counsel over the years.

Also at the AGM, the meeting agreed to adjust our Articles of Association and reduce the minimum number of Directors from seven to five. This change was made to allow the board a little more flexibility on when to appoint new directors, but also to keep non-executive roles and involvement to a minimum, allowing our General Manager to run the club under its direction.



Looking to the future, the priority of your board and management is to increase membership and event attendance back to and beyond pre-covid levels. Not only that, but also to broaden the mix of our members with a view to attracting younger professionals and executives. We will endeavour to put on more events which attract that demographic and, dare I say it, making our club more family friendly.

I want to end my first newsletter with two requests. The first is that if you see me around the club, please do come up and say hello and the second is to ask for your regular feedback on anything club related. There is a suggestion box in the foyer. Please use it.

I am really looking forward to the next two years as your Chairman and hope that our little oasis will not be further disturbed by pandemics or other external crises.

**Stephen Britt** *Chairman*

## From the General Manager's office



**There is no way I can gloss over the nightmare of 2021. It was dreadful! With constantly starting, stopping, and wasting produce. Working alone in the Clubhouse without colleagues and members coming and going is not a pleasant experience. However, I was encouraged by all to push on and look forward to better times which are here.**

Since our return to near normal opening in the New Year, the Club kitchen team of Richard & Stefan have been busy tidying our new menu format by tailoring dishes to member's tastes with monthly changes and daily specials.

Over the past twelve months we had a seismic shift in staffing which resulted in bringing the Kitchen and Front of House closer together. As a larger team and working as one entity we are now able to focus on delivering the best member experience we can achieve, and this change has made everybody's role more enjoyable.

I have noticed the members starting to return from what seems like a very long hibernation. Function trade is picking up again with Weddings and private parties which all help with the upkeep of this fine building that constantly craves my attention. I do have further works planned in the Bar and more office rental developments to support overheads, which I hope to finalise soon. Decorating the clubhouse is however a task that feels like painting the Forth Bridge as its never ending. It is going to be a major task during the summer of 2022 to decorate the exterior in planned stages.

Lockdown has given me more time to plan improvements in technology that has resulted in improved access for members with "smart" locks, CCTV, and enhanced security systems. I will now move forward with developments in "smart" heating and lighting systems that should give a good investment return with savings made in lower energy consumption.

**Robert Coppin** - Club General Manager

## A note from the President

**Many of you know Pauline Young stood down from her role as President at the end of last year. The Board approached me and asked if I would be willing to take on the role of President. I accepted, and consider it a privilege to do so.**

Pauline is a hard act to follow. She was appointed President in 2017 and in that time performed her role with enthusiasm and obvious great affection for the Club. She has been an ever-present host at the Speaker's lunches and has attended many evening functions during the past 4 years, as I say a hard act to follow!

My tenure has so far been brief, but I have had the good fortune to attend what I believe may have been a first for the Club. An evening art class! Theronda Hoffman, a local professional artist, guided us through the complexities of painting a picture. She made it seem fairly straightforward, but then the rest of us were asked to produce something similar. It was in fact, far from straightforward! Yet it was great fun, and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Ongoing I am looking forward to fulfilling my new role and hope to meet many of you during my time as President. Our Club is a truly remarkable place and I hope that you continue to enjoy the many events and societies that it has to offer. Finally if there are any of you who have never had lunch at the Club, please do so, it is remarkably good value.

**Basil Tenwick** – Club President

## Financial Report

**In the financial year, to 30th September 2021, we have had what can only be described, in financial terms, as a rollercoaster ride!**

We started the year hurtling towards a 2nd lockdown which we survived thanks to the £87,319 grant money received in the year, principally through the Furlough scheme which ran until our year end. This together with a reduced VAT bill and no rates being due for the year. Had it not been for these government support actions, we would be facing a very different future. Thankfully we have come through the year with only a small loss after tax of £1,524. This being similar to the previous year, which was also due to government support.

I ask you to cast your mind back to September 2019, when the Club was last fully operational and having a revenue of near £400,000 thus making a surplus of £15,000. Very different to 2021 with revenue now being under £200,000. Thanks must go to Robert and his staff who have, considering the variable openings we were allowed, managed to help achieve these results.

This roller coaster ride has also meant that on the downside earlier in the crisis we made some redundancies. This added to our salaries and wage costs. However, it has meant that going forward our staff structure is now on a sound footing.

Despite all the unfortunate events unfolding we go into the future year with net current assets of £204,000. Many thanks must go to members for the tremendous response to the request for their subscription renewal in March 2021. Thanks to the subscriptions and grants received we have maintained our cash position.

The challenges we are now facing are different. Whilst we move into a period with hopefully no further lockdowns, we will no longer benefit from the levels of wage support seen under the Furlough scheme. The ongoing challenge now is to manage our cash resources whilst getting back to a more normal period of trading. There is no doubt that we are also facing increased cost price inflation, which Robert is managing. We are also investigating ways of protecting some of our cash reserves through investments.

We move into the next year with cautious optimism but are very mindful of the great support shown by the members.

**Keith Ferguson** Finance Director



## Bridge update

**The Tuesday morning Duplicate sessions resumed on 20th July 2021 in a well-ventilated Adams Room. Tables of 5 from an average attendance of 20 and we are hopeful these numbers will increase in the coming months, and hopefully in time for the planned Easter Lunch. Those who do play are enjoying the bridge and the social interaction more than even.**

I end this report on a sad note. Margaret Croucher, a long-standing member of the bridge club, who played regularly and whose husband, Steve founded the I&S bridge club sadly past away in November 2021. She is greatly missed.

**Maurice Barnes** *Captain of Bridge*

## Snooker news

**I am pleased to say though that despite the total lockdown, through which we have all suffered by doing nothing, restrictions have now been eased. Snooker continued under the ever-watchful eye of Robert who ensured that all necessary Covid restrictions were followed. We were able to continue Tuesday night club snooker by adopting a week by week booking system. A number of members, who had not previously played, turned up and enjoyed these evenings.**

Although there were few Thursday evening matches played, just before Christmas 2021 we were able to hold the inaugural David Green cup competition and also the Mardi Boys Bash. Both were very enjoyable, and thanks must go to Dick Berresford for organising the Bash in his own inimitable style.

The 2022 snooker season is now very much underway and gathering pace with the Snooker & Billiards Competitions in full swing, and as usual I am grateful to Tony Harmer for their organisation.

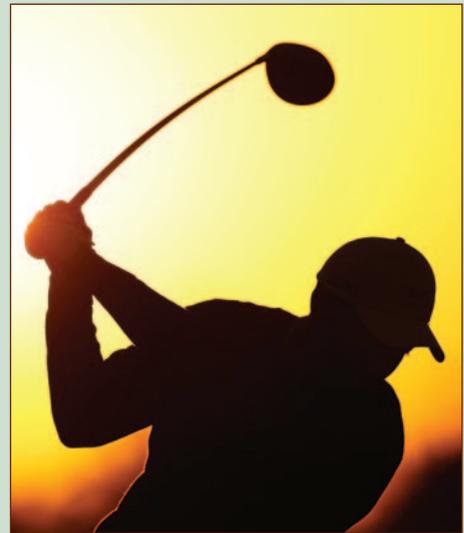
By the time the newsletter goes to print the first finals night, for the Taylor Tankards pairs competition, will have been played. Also, the Bill Allin Cup. Once these are completed the Thursday evening matches will commence again.

All these matches are played on a friendly basis and from experience they are very enjoyable. We do like to include as many members as we can in these matches, please let me know should you wish to play. Ability levels are definitely not the criteria for selection, rather the ability to have a very social and entertaining evening!

Club night is held on Tuesday evenings and all members are welcome – we play from 5.15 pm to around 9.00 pm. If you would like to join us please just turn up, or contact me if further information is needed.

Finally, I would like to register a big thank you to all the members who have supported the snooker section through the recent difficult times and look forward to having a better and successful 2022.

**Allan Williams** *Captain of Snooker*



## Golf news

**The annual golf day at Purdis last September, was the 4th time we competed for the Andy Booth Memorial Trophy, which is in memory of a great golfer and friend. The winner was George McLellan, 2nd Jim Newbold and 3rd Phil Thorndyke. The best front nine winner was Robbie Adams and the best back nine winner was Peter Shepherd. There were 17 golfers competing.**

The Northgate Trophy, which is our annual knockout golf competition, was won by Club Chairman Keith Ferguson. The runner up was Robbie Adams. A big thanks to all who took part.

In October a team of eight had a match against The Cronies (a Purdis based group of golfers) after the match we all had an excellent meal. This was the 3rd annual match of what we hope there will be many more of. The match was halved.

*Yours in Golf, Allan Gosling*

## Book Club

Morning Book Clubs are held at the club on a monthly basis. One on the 1st Wednesday, the second on the 3rd Wednesday.

Each meeting followed by a very sociable lunch. Members are very welcome to attend either or both of these meetings. To help decide what we will read we like to ask for suggestions and recommendations from attendees of the groups. Members are encouraged to email their review of books if they cannot attend in person. Our reading lists are regularly updated and posted on the Club noticeboard. We survived the 'lockdowns' by using the internet to keep in touch and were glad to have real meetings whenever restrictions allowed, even outside! (These were definitely not work meetings!!). We do hope that you will consider joining our very friendly groups.

**Mo Stiles**

## Club Chef

**It is a great pleasure to see everyone coming back to the club and I can assure you that our team is ready for the new challenge ahead!**

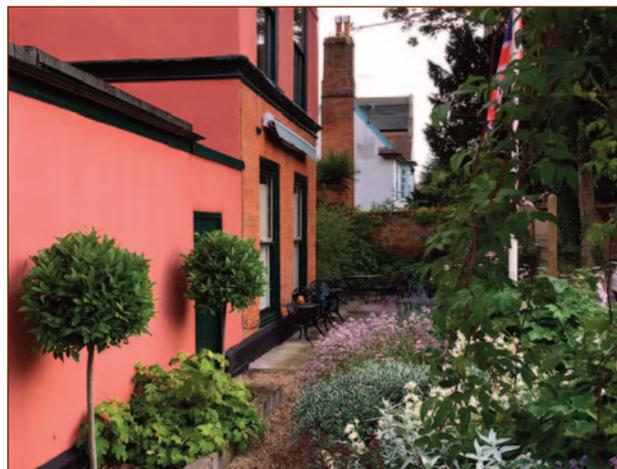
As a New Social Calendar starts, we will be looking to update the historic era of "meat and 2 veg" and putting a bit of a twist on it! Using the knowledge gained of diversity of flavours I picked up on my many travels, we will endeavour to bring new dishes to share with you all. In my quest as the new Head Chef, I will be ably assisted by my new side-kick Stef. He has a great work ethic and attitude and is as excited as me to provide a fantastic culinary experience at the start a new chapter in the club.

We will always be open to suggestions and ideas members would like to put forward and both Stef and I are looking forward to a great future at the club.

**Richard Monk** – Head Chef



**The Club's Restaurant and Bistro are fully open offering a range of both hot and cold foods and daily specials. Restaurant hours are 12:30pm - 2:00pm Monday - Friday, booking is not essential but reservations ensure your table.**



## Club Security

**Owing to us all being unable to access the building as often as we may have wished over the last couple of years, some new procedures are now in place for the safety and security of the clubhouse.**

Our club is now protected with enhanced smart security systems with the **clubhouse open 08.00-20.00 hours Monday-Saturday and later when functions are in progress.** We have an honesty bar in operation for your use when staff are off duty.

Unless you have made prior arrangements with the management you **MUST vacate the clubhouse by 20.00** as at this time the doors of the clubhouse are auto deadlocked and the security alarm system is activated. If the alarm is tripped, this will could result in Police attendance.

We also request that you ensure all non-member guests are correctly signed-in for multiple reasons.

## From the Wine Committee

**The first event of 2022 was our Annual Club Wine Challenge. A challenge given to the Wine Committee to see who is the best matcher of wines to the menu proposed by Chef Richard.**

This year I myself was pitched against new Club Chairman Stephen Britt. Members present voted and it was a close-run thing. The trophy went to Stephen, a good start to his term of office. The evening was overseen by referee, MC, compere scorer and general Banterer-in-Chief Melvyn Eke. Our thanks go to him and all the staff for contributing to an excellent, good fun evening, with great food and some lovely wines.

Our next event is on March 11th. This is the opportunity for you all to come along and taste numerous wines from our supplier Nethergate Wines, and to give us your opinions on which wines you would like to see included on the Club wine list. You will enjoy good food and good wines with like-minded individuals. Hoping to see you all then if not before!

**Bruce Murrill**



## Joint Membership

This is an excellent time to upgrade your membership to include your spouse or partner.  
The cost is £80.00 + VAT - Interested? Contact General Manager Robert Coppin.