

## Steady as she goes . . .



*Club Chairman, Bruce Murrill*

**I have really enjoyed my first few months as Chairman and..... so far so good! The club is thriving, and progress on upgrading our facilities is ongoing. We are constantly seeking to add to member value, with new facilities and services, and these are continually being introduced (Sunday parking, home buffet services, etc).**

Certainly, our club events have been well attended so far this year and, when asked, members have commented on the value for money they get, when compared with similar events at outside venues. This will remain an ongoing focus.

We arrived at the half year point slightly ahead of plan and budget. However, ever mindful of the current economic situation, we are cautious about committing to further expenditure at this point. We are entering our membership renewal cycle and inevitably we will lose a few members. People's needs and circumstances change, and no more so than in a recession. Thus we need to understand how the club finances will look next year, before committing plans into actions post September. Now would be an excellent time to introduce friends and family to the joys and benefits of membership!! Full details are available from Robert.

With this newsletter you will find our latest Social Calendar, featuring many old favourites and a few new

events. I hope there is something there to attract you into the club. The lead up to Christmas is always a very busy period and many events have a cult following. Therefore I do urge you to study it early, and identify and book those that you would like to attend, as many sell out very quickly.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the reciprocal arrangements we have with other like-minded clubs, both around the UK and abroad. There, a warm welcome, and use of their extensive facilities can be arranged. Just in East Anglia our members can use superb clubs in Bury, Norwich and Colchester, for sanctuary during a busy day. In London you are spoilt for choice! Robert can arrange these visits for you.

Finally, my thanks to all members and staff for your continued support. I am looking forward to the next six months social program. See you all at the Chairman's cocktail evening??

**Bruce Murrill** - Club Chairman

## WHY KEEP IT TO YOURSELF!

As part of your membership, The Ipswich and Suffolk Club provides a wide range of benefits and services including:-

- Fine Dining • Bistro Style • Bar Meals*
- Superb Wines from Extensive Cellars*
- Full Social Events Calendar*
- Reciprocal Clubs Throughout the World*
- Floodlit Town Centre Parking - Now also available Sunday Morning*
- Prestigious Club Building for Private Parties & Meetings*
- Snooker & Billiards with Competitions*
- Members Outside Catering Service*
- Golf Events • Bridge Club & Book Group*
- Theatre and Cultural Trips*

Share the benefits - introduce a new member to the Ipswich and Suffolk Club and **receive £25 of vouchers** to spend in the Club Restaurant or Bar as our way of saying thank you! - Contact Robert for more information.

## About Turn!

After many months the Northgate Street road works have at last been completed.

The project, which consisted of removing the original paving slabs and replacing with new, enhancing the cycle parking spaces and cycle paths and resurfacing the roadway, necessitated closing the north end of Northgate Street and reversing the traffic flow for those leaving the club.

Please therefore remember to turn left in future when leaving the Northgate Street car park and take extra care as buses do seem to travel at high speeds as they pass the gate.

## Derek Firmin 1936-2009

It is with great sorrow that we report the death of a much-loved Club member Derek Firmin on February 25th after a long illness.

Derek, who was father of Club Director Stephen Firmin, was a long-standing member of some 25 years and a well-known figure in local business circles.



His career in Ipswich spanned more than three decades, beginning with the banking sector in the early 1970s, where he held positions at TSB and Martins before becoming Manager at the Hastings and Thanet Building Society.

In the mid 1980s he moved into estate agency when he worked for Armitage and Co, Parkyns and Carter Jonas before his final move into the legal world of Jackaman Smith and Mulley, where he stayed as Practice Manager until his retirement in 2001.

Many will also remember Derek as a great lover of music and a talented chorister at St Mary Le Tower, where he contributed hugely to the its musical output from the late 1960s right up until the end of 2008.

His musical career began as a choirboy at St James Church, Clacton, and later as a member of the choir of St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, whilst completing his National Service with the Army.

He was also much in demand as a soloist and claimed to have lost count of the number of times he had sung bass solos in the Messiah and Crucifixion!

Notwithstanding his significant ecclesiastical duties, Derek still found time to be President of the Orwell Rotary Club no less than twice, a member of the Ipswich Bach Choir and Tower Chamber Choir, a talented artist in oils and watercolour and of course a very popular member of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club.

Derek leaves a wife Janet, daughter Joanna, son Stephen, and two grandchildren, Stephanie and Banks.

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## View from the White House

We will shortly come to the end of the social activities for the first half of the year. The events held throughout the spring and summer have on the whole been very well supported and much enjoyed by those attending.

However, it is always difficult to gauge the popularity of Speaker's Lunches, some prove so popular that they generate waiting lists that can not be accommodated. The lesson is that if there is something in which members are particularly interested – please book early.

It is not possible to comment on all of the activities in this short note but mention should be made of a few. Of the speakers lunches there was much interest in The River Gipping Trust where the speaker was one of our members – Lewis Tyler. Another popular event was the fascinating talk given by Brian Heard on Forensic Science. I was rather concerned at the gory and explicit details to which he made reference, but looking around the room it was clear that Club Members are made of sterner stuff so no intervention proved to be necessary!

The Summer Soirée was much enjoyed and for once the weather was kind, which allowed Robert to display his talents as an alfresco barbecue chef to great effect!

And last but not least I am delighted to report that the recent barge trip down the River Orwell, again was very successful, even though there were a few refreshing showers!

As a final note, I would like to offer on behalf of the membership, sincere thanks to Robert, Denis, Linda and every member of the staff who make all our activities such a success.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next event.

**Gerry Barnes** - Club President

## General Manager's Report . . .



It's now three years since my arrival at the Ipswich & Suffolk Club and I have enjoyed every moment.

We have achieved so much in the past year with a major investment in a new high-tech heating system, Kitchen and Prep Room refurbishment, Bar, Reading Room and Snooker Room décor and all the other small yet I feel important improvements that make the club a special place for members and their guests.

I have not finished yet, and with your support we will refurbish and extend the wash room facilities (most importantly for the Ladies), along with other exciting projects that will be announced as they reach the final planning stage.

I trust you have found an improvement in the level of service throughout the club with attention to detail that befits a club that is the envy of many others.

Our improved bar snack menu plus a new high-tech coffee machine that grinds fresh beans to order for espresso and cappuccino coffee, are just a couple of examples of listening and acting on your comments.

As you will already be aware, the club does not open on Sundays. However after a number of requests from members, we have been pleased to offer a service to support members with a Sunday "takeaway buffet" service using the undoubted skills of Denis and his team.

This means that members can enjoy not only very high quality food, but also the use of tables, chairs, cutlery, ice - in fact almost everything needed to make your party a great success.

So should you be thinking of a Sunday event, do give me a ring and we can chat about how we can help.

And finally may I once again take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and to assure you that with the backing of the I&S Team, I will continue to do my very best to deliver a standard of excellence throughout the club that you all deserve.

**Robert Coppin** - Club General Manager

# Snooker & Billiards News . . .

Welcome to a period of change. Whilst I am continuing as Captain of Snooker, I am pleased to welcome eight Committee Members who will assist me as follows :

**Right Hand Man** - John Marjason

**Autumn/Winter Competitions** - Lewis Johnston and David Parkinson

**Club Matches** - Melvyn Eke, George McLellan, Jim Savage, David Goldsmith and Malcolm Stredwick

**Knockout Competitions (Spring & Autumn Cooper Tankards & Bill Allin Trophy)** - Bob Bacon

This should enable me to play a little more snooker myself but more importantly, the position of Captain of Snooker will be very much more acceptable to a successor. There are still some administration tasks that I would like to pass on, so if any member would like to become more involved, do please contact me. By involving more members, we ensure that snooker continues as one of the major activities at our Club.

The needs of the snooker players have not escaped the attentions of Robert Coppin, the General Manager, and by the time you read this the Snooker Room will have been refurbished, there will be new snooker balls and suspended chalks in both rooms and an additional set of billiards balls. Steps are being taken to extend the Trophy Winner Boards to accommodate future winners and it is planned to refurbish the Billiards Room next year. There are now spare hanging cue cases and anybody needing to use one should contact Robert or myself.

The snooker facilities are enjoyed in varying degrees by over 65 members whose details I have. There are some others who do play occasionally and I would remind all members that all are welcome to take advantage of our facilities. You will be welcomed on Tuesday evenings which is the "Club night". We select teams for the Club Matches with the intention of giving as many members as possible the chance to play and ability is NOT an important factor - we each play one frame either side of Supper and judging from the comments, it is enjoyed by members and opposition alike. So if you wish to be invited to play, do please tell me.



## Results - Snooker Competitions

Competition	Winner(s)	Runner(s) – up
Snooker Open	D.G. Tuckwell	S.L. Johnston
Snooker Handicap	R. E.Bacon	S.L. Johnston
Norman Baynes Billiards	D.G.Tuckwell	D.E.Goldsmith
Taylor Centenary Tankards	R.M. Alexander & R.A. Upshall	R.Berrisford & A.R.Anderson
Claud West	R.E. Bacon	N. Baker

Did you notice the nonagenarian amongst the winners ? Congratulations to you all and thanks particularly to the referees – Messrs Alexander, Croucher, Marjason and Murrill.

I look forward to another record entry for this Winter's Competitions - the entry forms will be on the notice board from early August.

**David Green** - 01473 226794 or email [davjan7@ntlworld.com](mailto:davjan7@ntlworld.com)

## Club Dress Code

A recent conversation with a relatively new member who was concerned (unnecessarily as it turned out) about flouting the club dress code has prompted this brief reminder.

With the exception of formal black tie events, the club dress code asks for jacket OR tie in the main restaurant and "smart casual" elsewhere in the club. (Loan ties are available in the gentlemen's cloakroom.)

Smart casual is generally understood to exclude t-shirts, denim jeans and training shoes.

# Golf News

This season by and large the weather conditions have been ideal for golfers, with our home course – Ipswich Golf Club at Purdis Heath, (to give it its full title), being in superb condition from early on in the season.

The two annual fixtures against other clubs have now taken place, and I am pleased to report that our match against Colchester Garrison in April at Colchester was won by our team and we were delighted to bring home the Priarch Trophy.

Unfortunately we were not quite so successful when we took on the Bury Farmers Club at Purdis in June for the Turnbull Cup, which after a hard-fought battle, ended in a draw.

The matchplay club knockout is now well under way, with the results so far on our club's sporting notice board.

And last but by no means least, would all club golfers please make a note in their diary for Wednesday 16th September, when the Annual Ipswich and Suffolk Club Golf Competition will take place.

The day starts with tee times from noon at Purdis, and finishes at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club for a splendid dinner and of course the presentation of trophies and prizes to the winners.

If you would like to take part in this highly enjoyable event, please put your name on the entry sheet on the club notice board outside the bar.

Yours in golf - **Allan Gosling**



*Allan Gosling and Bury Captain Steve Over lead the first 4 ball out...*

## Calling all Lady Golfers

It has come to Club Manager Robert Coppin's attention that there are quite a number of lady members who are also keen golfers.

If you are amongst their number and would like to explore the possibility of setting up a Ladies' Golf Section, then Robert would like to hear from you.

You may even wish to put your name forward for the position of Lady Captain and take an active role in organising competitions and matches?

Please either telephone or email Robert at the club to register your interest.

# Champagne Evening sparkles

Friday July 3rd saw another full house for our ever-popular Champagne and Strawberries evening.

This year's selection of fine sparkling wines (mostly) made in the traditional Champagne method, provided a very convivial evening's entertainment, during which we enjoyed six wines from no less than three continents.

The Lanson Gold Label 1998 was for most the star of the show, but for sheer value for money the delicious Maipo Valley Chilean Undurraga was hard to beat.

The final wine of the evening was a wildcard thrown in by our very own Club Manager Robert Coppin. This was a spectacular sparkling Shiraz, which went down very well with the chocolate-dipped strawberries desert!

The Wine Committee will host two more events later in the year, including another chance to participate in the Call My Bluff Wine Tasting. This light-hearted event proved very popular on its debut last year and comes highly recommended.

Finally, on Saturday 21st November, the annual vintage wine tasting is certain to be an early sell out – and for very good reason, as those attending will have the opportunity to enjoy some absolutely superb wines from around the world.



## ◀ Finding their sea legs

The July barge trip down the River Orwell

## A taste of the Med ▶

Mediterranean food and wine went down a treat at one of our popular tasting nights



# Reciprocal Clubs

The list of British and overseas clubs with which the Ipswich and Suffolk Club has reciprocal arrangement continues to grow. In fact, a number of our members have been made very welcome at clubs as far away as Bangkok!

Please book your visit to any club in advance by contacting Robert at the Club office.

**In London:** The City University Club • The Lansdowne Club • The New Cavendish Club • The National Liberal Club • The St. Stephen's Club **Other National Clubs:** The Bath & County Club, Bath • The British Pottery Manufacturers Club, Stoke on Trent • The Bury Farmers' Club, Bury St Edmunds • The Colchester Officers' Garrison Club, Colchester • The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh • The St James's Club, Manchester • The Nottingham Club, Nottingham • The Norfolk Club, Norwich • The Phyllis Court Club, Henley on Thames • The Clifton Club, Bristol • The Royal Naval Club and Royal Albert Yacht Club, Portsmouth

**Channel Islands:** The Victoria Club, Jersey **Overseas: USA** - The Ashford Club, Atlanta, Georgia; **Thailand:** - The British Club, Bangkok **Australia** - The Western Australia Club, Perth • The Sandhurst Club, Victoria **Greece** - The Yacht Club of Greece, Mikrolimano, Piraeus **India** - The Westind Country Club, Manipal **Kenya** - The Muthaiga Country Club, Nairobi **South Africa** - The Royal Cape Yacht Club, Cape Town • The Port Elizabeth St George's Club, Port Elizabeth

# WELCOME

The Ipswich and Suffolk Club is delighted to welcome members that have joined in the last year.

We look forward to getting better acquainted with one and all at one of the forthcoming club events shown in your social calendar.

Mr Mark Page • Mr Rowell Bell • Rev Charles Jenkin • Mrs Rani Pert • Mr Jason Gardner • Mr Nicholas Baker • Mrs Shirley Brazinski  
Mr Adrian Dodds • Mr Nicholas Le-Grys • Mr Benedict Gummer • Mrs Bella Bridgwater • Mr Robert Granger • Mrs Joy Harris • Mr Clive Burton  
Mr Terence Graham • Mrs Jannette Wynne • Mr Mark Bowditch • Mr Ralph Wainer • Mr John Spooner • Mrs Suzan Lazar • Mrs Jilly Harrison-Pinder  
Mr Peter Matthews • Mr Jonathan Hardie • Mr Allan Williams • Mr James Buckle • Mrs Andrea Ockenden • Mr Anthony Baker  
Mrs Stephanie Mallet • Mrs Leela Smith • Mr Andrew Johnson

## Your Club Contacts:

General Manager Robert Coppin • Club Chef Denis Groualle

Restaurant Supervisor Linda Sparkes • Bar Manager Sheila Studd

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