

# Into the new decade



*Club Chairman, Bruce Murrill*

**Greetings to you all as we enter the 'teenies'. The decades seem to come and go with ever increasing rapidity! However, as I enter my**

**final year, I am pleased to report that the club continues to thrive, despite our current economic climate. We must be doing something right.**

In this bulletin you will find details of what has happened and what is planned. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow directors and officers for their continued support to me, and for their hard work on your behalf. A lot goes on behind the scenes.

For 2010 we have plans which should see upgrades to the ladies and gentlemen's facilities in the club, the gardens front and back, and the web-site, which we hope to turn into a more dynamic and informative experience. These are in addition to a great deal of maintenance and redecoration

both internal and external. The club is starting to 'shine' and I hope we can continue to polish it!!!

As usual, Robert has produced an interesting social calendar, with a good mix of events: some favourites and some new ideas. I hope you will support and enjoy the programme.

Also, do note our reciprocal clubs and, should you get the chance on your travels, call in and use their facilities. They are there for your enjoyment. If you know of other clubs which may be useful to our members, please let us know and we will see if we can add them to our list.

I look forward to your company in 2010

**Bruce Murrill - Club Chairman**

## From the Oval Office

The Social Events during the last half year have largely been very successful and in many cases a "sell-out". Robert arranged a number of interesting speakers for the monthly lunches although he does experience some difficulty in assessing what will be of interest to members. For instance there was no interest (with the meeting having to be cancelled) in Diabetes whilst the story of the Suffolk Gipsy was heavily over subscribed – perhaps there were numbers of members who were wishing to find their pedigree!

The evening events remain popular and I must make special mention of the Club Carol Service prior to Christmas. The evening always starts well with hot mulled wine (Robert refuses to share his recipe!) followed by the Carol Service in the lovely St Mary le Tower Church.



This year was the third Club Carol Service and had the highest number of members and guests attending. We are particularly fortunate as a Club not only being

situated next door to the church but having as members the Vicar and the Director of Music. We are indebted to Charles Jenkin and Michael Nicholson for arranging and conducting the service at their busy time of the year. As it happened it would have been appropriate if one of the carols had been "Good King Wenceslas" for on leaving the club after the buffet the snow "lay deep and crisp and even" with a blizzard in progress. Fortunately everyone did get home albeit with some having a difficult and delayed journey.

And finally, those of us who attended the club Burns' Night celebrations were treated to another fine Scottish feast for all the senses - even if the haggis was prepared by a French chef!

**Gerry Barnes - Club President**

## From the Manager's Office



It has been a very busy winter period for all the staff, even over the cold snap when we kept the club open by clearing snow in the car park (which certainly helped to check my inevitable Christmas holiday weight-gain.)

Thanks to your continued loyal support, we have found it necessary to recruit another member of staff, so I would like to welcome Caroline to the team. Caroline ably assists Jackie in serving lunches and at club evening functions, and has

already made her mark as a valued member of our staff call-out team who support Linda & Sheila front of house.

Denis and Paul as ever are the legs furiously paddling unnoticed under the water (or at least out of sight in the kitchens) keeping you all fed with splendid cuisine. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the I&S team as they have worked so hard.

I am grateful for the feedback from members with ideas regarding trips and functions at the club. I listen and act when given an idea that is viable (like the Regent Show and Supper events and the Suffolk Punch trip to Woodbridge.) Do contact me if you know of a venue that requires a minimum number to attend and I will do my best to organise a trip for you all. After all it is only with your help that I can create the Social Calendar you want and enhance your club experience.

Now we are into the New Year we are about to commence works on the ladies' toilets to make two cubicles and two new hand-basins. This work will entail a closure of this area due to construction of the support walls and roof. I trust you will bear with us during this work. We will have the upstairs toilet available for the Ladies whilst the work is being carried out.

Immediately after the ladies' toilets are finished, we will start work on the gentlemen's toilet. We will remove the old and replace with two new pedestal units, new flooring and decoration with new lighting.

The Northgate Street car park will have a new raised bed area with climbing plants to enhance the view from the dining room. If funds allow we will continue this work along the wall and refurbish the existing raised bed near the Northgate entrance.

We hopefully will soon start to redecorate the Tower Street side of the club with remedial work on many of the windows. This is in conjunction with IBC who after talks have agreed to remove and replant the silver birch trees on Tower Street, plant new shrubs on our entrance and all along our boundary wall. With further planting on our side in the borders we hope that this work will make the club grounds look much improved and the envy of many.

**Robert Coppin** - Club General Manager

## Number Crunching

At the AGM on 8th February the Board presented the accounts for year ending 30th September 2009, which showed a profit improvement on the 2008 year. Not an unusual event in itself but given the economic climate throughout the whole of that year it is a great credit to Robert and Denis and their staff that the club continues to thrive.

We had a turnover of £312,000 and returned a surplus of 5% for the year. The club now has working capital of £65,000 and we have set a budget for 2010 to (at least) break even in order to try and maintain our reserves going forward.

Results in tough times don't happen by accident and you will all be pleased to hear that Robert has a keen eye for cost control, cash and margin-management. We are all very mindful that whilst the club is currently on a strong financial footing we need to continue to strive to provide facilities and events members enjoy. We are all too aware that we could spend our reserves very quickly on one problem with our historic building.

Despite the challenge of the general economy with your support and the effort of Robert and his staff the club is looking forward to the new decade with as much vigour as it has for the previous 125 years.

## A Club Tradition continues



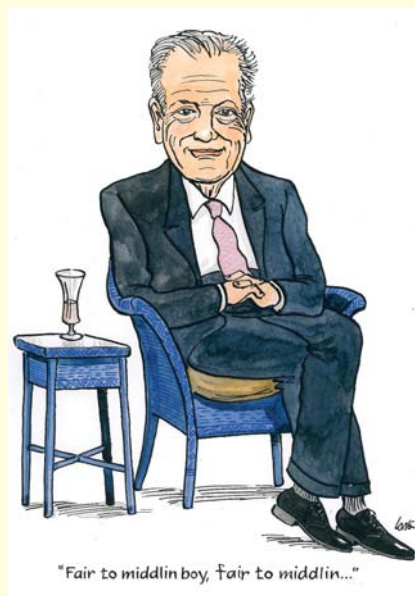
For many years the Club bar has displayed a large selection of artist's caricatures of prominent members (mostly now sadly no longer with us.)

So now that the bar refurbishment has been completed, we are delighted to announce the inclusion of three new caricatures of prominent members both past and present.



Caricatures of retired Cub Directors David Wass and Bob Wright can now be seen adjacent to the bar.

And our one-time "Oldest Member" Mike Mulley is also on display, no-doubt keeping a weather-eye on the units consumed by club members...



"Fair to middlin boy, Fair to middlin..."

## Golf News

The annual golf day held at Purdis on 16th September 09 was enjoyed by all but especially by our winner Bruce Murrill (40 stableford points) a truly great result.

Congratulations also to Prad Patel and George McLellan who achieved second and third positions respectively.

In fact 2009 resulted in a clean sweep for our sporting Chairman Bruce who also scooped the Northgate Trophy (our annual knockout golf competition), beating George McLellan in a closely-fought final.

If you wish to take part in the 2010 Northgate Trophy, please put your name on the entry sheet on the club notice board outside the bar, and please give your entry fee of £3 to cover prizes to our Bar Manager Sheila. This year will also see our two inter-club matches taking place with the Priarch Trophy against the Colchester Garrison Officers' Club in April, and later in the year we will have an opportunity to improve upon last year's draw against the Bury Farmers at Flempton Golf Club.

Finally of course, our annual golf day for the Barnard Cup will be held at Purdis in September, so please do leave a space in your diary for what always proves to be a most enjoyable day's golf and an excellent dinner to follow.

Yours in golf - **Allan Gosling**

## From the Wine Committee (Hic!)

It's been a very busy period since the last Newsletter. As expected the Call My Bluff wine tasting was a hoot. Hosted by our supplier Charles Eaton from Nethergate Wines, ably assisted by your Chairman and Melvin Eke as the panel of 'liars', we managed to bamboozle most in attendance into wrongly guessing who was telling the truth. I think the winning table got one right!! However, a good time was had by all.

Our Vintage wine tasting evening was a sellout. Denis excelled with the food which was nicely matched by some superb wines, some for early drinking from the cellar.

The cellar of course is the source of our wines for the Annual Members dinner, which this year recorded it's highest attendance in living memory. We had members in the dining room, snug, reading room and Adam room. The wine went well too.

By the time you receive this we will have enjoyed our "Best of England\*" wine and food extravaganza. This event combined a sampling of our ever more complex English wines, with high quality, locally sourced food. It should be another night to remember.

Look forward to seeing you at our 2010 events

**Bruce**

## 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.

## Snooker Newsletter February 2010

The Winter Knockout Competitions are proceeding well with only occasional hiccups and deadlines missed. Members' efforts to play matches promptly are much appreciated.



*Chairman Bruce Murrill presenting prizes to winning snooker players Nick Baker and David Jones.*

The matches with various clubs ( golf, 41, Rotary etc ) continue to be very popular and the most recent addition, Woodbridge Golf Club, has now joined most of our opponents in playing us each Spring and Autumn. The intention continues that every Member who wishes to play for the Club should be invited to do so irrespective of ability. However, the change to matches being skipped by one of the four Committee Members concerned does prevent any one person being aware of any member not being asked to play. If you would like to play and are not receiving an invitation, do please contact me.

The redecoration of the Snooker Room together with improved lighting and cue storage facilities was completed last year. Whilst it has been necessary to put off redecoration of the Billiards Room for a year, Robert hopes during 2010 to be able to change the table lights to match those in the Snooker Room and also to fit a carpet. Without doubt, we do benefit from some excellent facilities.

I do appreciate the efforts of the Snooker Committee and thank them for their help last year. With ten members, it does mean that the work involved is much more acceptable for everybody concerned. There is a vacancy for one more member and I would welcome contact from any member wishing to help.

**David Green** February 2010

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## Parking Update

No doubt all members are delighted with the steady increase in the numbers of people using the club facilities. However, this does mean that there is an inevitable increase in pressure upon parking spaces, particularly at busy times.

So in order to protect this important facility for legitimate members, the Board has found it necessary to tighten up on policing the car park and to that effect, unfortunately this means that penalty notices issued will now in all cases have to be charged.

These may include:

1. Parking without a valid car permit. **(Please therefore always inform Robert of any change of car or use of temporary loan cars).**
2. Members loaning their legitimate car to non-members who subsequently use the car park. (This is a particular problem with sons/daughters using the car park in their parent's car – **please be aware that the permit is both vehicle and member specific**).
3. Full-time parking members allowing non members to “use their parking space” while they do not need it. (Full-time parking offers **the holder in person** the right to park his car, and does not confer a permanent space upon the permit holder to lend to another while the member is away.

Club and Parking Rules can be found on the Club Notice Board and in the Manager's office and Robert and the Team would be most grateful for members' support in this matter.

## 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 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 • The Eccentric 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 Phylliss 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 Georgian 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

## Flying the Flag

Those of you with a patriotic bent will no-doubt be delighted to see the new flagpole, which currently flies the Union Jack.

And those of you who were Boy Scouts or Girl Guides should be please to see that we are flying it the right way up!

It has even been suggested that we might consider producing our own club flag, so if any members have suggestions for a design, Robert would be most interested to hear from you...



## A Warm Welcome

Since our last newsletter we are pleased to welcome a number of new members to the club as follows:

Mrs Margaret Jolly  
 Mr Keith & Jacqueline Fletcher  
 Mrs Janet Firmin  
 Mrs Marie Body  
 Mrs Angela Finch  
 Mrs Patricia & Roger Cordy  
 Col Henry Ablett  
 Mr Philip Thorndyke  
 Mr Trevor Hartley  
 Mrs Catherine Sims  
 Mr Randall & Heather Bevan  
 Mr Donald & Maureen Betts  
 Mr Edward & Iris Mould  
 Mr Jonathan Emin & Dr Suling Peck  
 Mr Giles Slaughter  
 Dr Amit Patel  
 Mr Peter & Maureen Macmillan  
 Mr John & Lesley Skinner  
 Dr Paddy & Rosalind Wood  
 Mrs Clare Thomas  
 Mr Roy & Noreen Kitson  
 Mr Colin & Brenda Jarrett

## Your Club Contacts:

General Manager Robert Coppin • Club Chef Denis Groualle

Restaurant Supervisor Linda Sparkes • Bar Manager Sheila Studd

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