



2007/08 Club Chairman, Richard Hawkins

From the Chair . . .

I am very sad to report that since the last Newsletter we have suffered the loss of Eric McCoy, President of the Club and Director for many years.

Eric was a staunch supporter of club activities and a great ambassador for the club and he will be greatly missed by one and all.

On a more positive note, I am delighted to welcome Gerry Barnes and Pauline Young to their new roles as President and Vice President respectively.

I am also pleased to report that thanks to a significant upturn in club finances (due in no small part to the hard work and dedication of our excellent Club Manager, Robert) it will not be necessary to increase the subscription for the coming year.

On your next visit to the Club, which I hope will be soon, you will note that the hall stairs and landing leading up to the Adam Room have been redecorated and a new carpet laid. The provision of a carpet was always one of the wishes of Eric McCoy and I can remember him saying to me some while ago that if you can do nothing else during your time as chairman at least have a new carpet laid – well I have achieved that!

New President and Vice President



Club Vice President, Pauline Young and President Gerry Barnes

I am sure that all members will be delighted to welcome our first lady Vice President, Pauline Young.

Pauline will join new Club President, Gerry Barnes in performing ceremonial duties such as officiating at functions and introducing guests.

We all wish the “Presidential Team” well in their new roles and look forward to seeing a lot more of both Pauline and Gerry at future Club events.



Anytime parking for Joint Members

Due to popular demand, joint membership now allows spouses/partners of the nominated “main” member all the privileges that the Club can offer.

So now for just £80 plus VAT per annum, (less than £2.00 per week), your spouse can take advantage of two hours parking at any time of day.

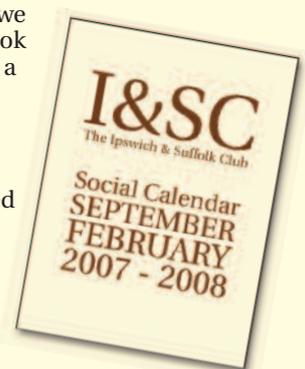
This is in addition to all the rights and privileges of a full member such as the ability to book tables in the restaurant, use all the club facilities and attend all functions including the Annual Dinner.

More information on joint membership is available from the Club Manager, Robert Coppin.

Check out your Social Diary

The September to February Club social diary has now been published and we are all looking forward to another bumper programme of events.

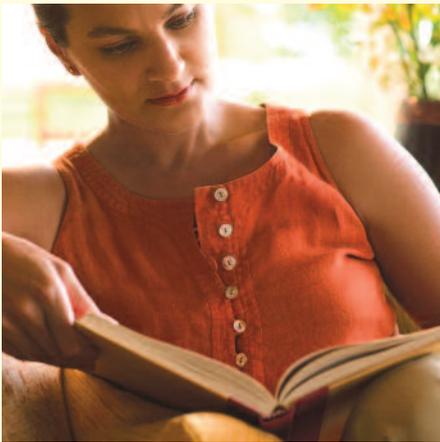
New for this Autumn, we have an exciting programme including theatre trips, the first of which, will be by coach to the Maddermarket Theatre after supper at the Norfolk Club, and we can also look forward to a special Christmas Family Evening with mulled wine, a carol service and buffet.



Read all about it . .

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, why not come and join us? The Ipswich and Suffolk Club Book Group was founded about two years ago in 2005 and we have been meeting regularly ever since. Our meetings are usually on the first Wednesday of the month between ten and twelve am.

We alternate between reading books and reading on themes and usually have a main book and a reserve book for those titles that are difficult to obtain.



The schedule for the next few meetings is as follows:

Wednesday 5th September.

Books: Bad Faith by Carmen Calil, The Nightwatch by Sarah Waters, The Siege by Helen Dunmore.

Wednesday 3rd October.

Theme: travel – fiction or non-fiction.

Wednesday 7th November.

Theme: The Orange Prize.

Wednesday 5th December.

Theme: Victorian novels (written in Victorian times).

Keep an eye out for posters listing the forthcoming meetings.

We like to recommend books and the meetings are filled with lively and varied opinions. We definitely don't toe the line with the established literati and book reviewers and we don't pull our punches on overrated writers in search of a good editor! Our choice of books and subjects is wide: most recently we looked at local books, followed by the novels of Graham Swift.

To date, the group has organised two annual dinners around Christmas time, one involving a guest speaker about Lord Nelson (in 2005) and one organised as a pre-Christmas meal. I will also endeavour to rope people in for my various schemes and activities involving "my" reading groups. This might include events at the main public library, storytelling and most recently, a visit to Highpoint Prison to meet their reading group.

I have enjoyed leading the group since the start and hope to be able to carry on for a while yet. If you are interested in joining the group, we would be happy to welcome you; please contact Robert.

Janet Bayliss

Book Group Leader



Promote your Club

Keeping the club membership topped up with suitable applicants is a constant challenge facing Robert Coppin and the Club Board of Directors.

To help show the Club to the outside world in the best light, we have refreshed the Club signage and applied a new look to all our Club promotional material.

Brochures are available to members who may wish to pass them on to friends or colleagues and Robert is always happy to put a brochure and details of membership in the post to anyone you may feel suitable.

So if you feel you can help the club attract new members, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Club Manager, Robert Coppin without delay.

Opening up the bar

Members will be delighted to hear the the Club will shortly open up a doorway from the bar to a small garden courtyard.

This will be accessed through a door in the panelling in the seating area of the bar and will offer an opportunity for enjoying a drink or a light lunch (weather permitting) in the fresh air.

Privacy and shelter from the wind will be provided by screens and additional planting will take place in the spring to enhance the area.

The courtyard will also offer a much-needed area for those who wish to smoke, which is currently taking place (perhaps rather inappropriately) at the front of the building.

Plans are currently being drawn up and we hope to have the project completed by the new year

In brief

The past six months have been challenging but rewarding, as we take the Club forward with membership of the Chamber of Commerce, new Club promotional material, and marketing our facilities to the local business community.



Our function business continues to prove a great success, with weddings and parties and the revenue received is enabling the Club to further improve the fabric of the building.

Policing the car park (as you can see by our photograph), continues to be a problem so we have decided to include specific car registration numbers on the 2007-2008 permits to stop permits being transferred to other vehicles.

We have introduced a new bar menu with hot food and will continue to improve this area with the new outside patio area, refurbished bar counter, Cappuccino Coffee machine, trophy display, and replacement furniture.

Finally, we would like to thank the Social Committee for all their help. The input these members give to the Social Calendar for the benefit of all members is much appreciated.

Three no trumps

Steve Croucher would like to announce that due to popular demand, the Bridge Improvers Club held each Tuesday morning will now be held throughout the year without a summer break.

Not only is this an opportunity to improve your bridge skills but a great social morning with coffee and lunch for those who wish.

There are a few places available and now that joint members are able to use the club car park in the morning demand is sure to be high, so if you are interested, please don't delay.

Applications should be made through Club Manager, Robert Coppin.

Snooker News . . .

Another snooker season approaches and I am feeling very optimistic.

The 2006/7 Competitions attracted the greatest number of entries since I first became involved including a surprising 17 entries for the Billiards!

Congratulations to the winners who were Dave Tuckwell (Snooker Open), David Goldsmith (Snooker Handicap and Norman Baynes Billiards), Phillip Covell (Claude West Snooker) and Jeff Cook & Michael Devitt (Centenary Taylor Tankards). Steve Croucher and David Dale won the Bill Allin Trophy and Ron Geary and Michael Devitt won the Spring Cooper Tankards.

The first half of the Match Programme for 2007 produced the usual enjoyment and some mixed results. Unfortunately I have to report that Bury Farmers Club reclaimed the Trophy for the first time in several years, although this may have been in part due to their excellent hospitality with generous glasses of port after dinner!

Tuesday evening snooker continues to be well supported but we would like to see more of those who are interested in Thursday evenings.

The remaining Programme for 2007 is shown in the Social Calendar.

If you would like to play, please contact myself or any Snooker Committee Member – Steve Croucher, John Marjason, Jim Savage or Malcolm Stredwick.



For the 2007/8 competitions, I am now able to receive entries by email and urge anyone interested in receiving Snooker emails to contact me on davjan7@ntlworld.com Entry lists and information will also continue to be posted on the notice boards in the usual way.

Persuading some competitors to contact their opponents continues to cause many problems. The onus is upon both contestants to contact each other so please do make contact as soon as your opponent is known.

The Finals evenings will be Thursday 21st February 2008 (Taylor Tankards) and Thursday 17th April 2008 for all other competitions. If you are free on these dates and have a handicap, please enter all the competitions for which you are eligible, especially billiards. If you do not have a handicap, or no longer wish to play, do please tell me as it helps me to maintain records.

Finally, I would be pleased to arrange a one-off evening to play billiards for those who would like to enter but have had little or no previous experience. I would also arrange for some of the more experienced billiard playing Members to be in attendance to help by answering queries. Please telephone or email me if you are interested.

David Green - 01473 226794



Wine Committee

This has been a busy and successful year for the Wine Committee. So far we have organized no less than three sold out wine tastings. In March we focused on wines from Australia and New Zealand, with Tim Evans from HBJ acting as our expert.

In May, John Haresnape, from the Lady Florence at Orford, delighted us with his knowledge of South African wine and vineyards, while his wife Sue helped us to theme the food with traditional South African dishes. John and Sue spend 6 months of the year in South Africa and have a wonderful knowledge of the country.

The evening was also a tribute to Eric McCoy, a long-standing member and former Director and Chairman of the club, who died in March, just after his return from a holiday in South Africa. With his wife Jackie, Eric had toured SA with John and Sue, visiting many of the vineyards, from which our wines were sourced. Eric had a great love of wine, which he has shared with us all on the Wine Committee, as its former chairman and much involved member. It was a poignant, but fun evening. Thank you again John and Sue.

Our traditional Champagne and Strawberry evening in July was its usual riotous success! There is just something about champagne!!!

Coming up we have another 'wines of the vintage years' tasting on September 21st. Based on last years event, early booking is essential.

The Wine Committee are researching a suggested 'Spanish Wine and Tapas' evening for early in 2008. Keep an eye out for that one, which promises to be a great evening.

Bruce Murrill,
Chair Wine Committee

Recent Club Events

Since our last newsletter, there have been a large number of highly successful events held at the club, some of which have been captured on camera. These include Normandy Day, our ever popular Champagne and strawberries evening and most recently the Club's Bastille Dinner celebrations.

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



Normandy Dinner

8th June 2007

Many thanks to all who attended for making this annual event another success.



Bastille Day Dinner

14th July 2007

A splendid four-course dinner was provided by the talented Denis and his team.



Champagne Tasting

In another sell-out wine committee event, the Club Champagne evening proved once again to be a resounding success.



Joint Membership

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

The cost is less than £80.00 + VAT for the coming membership year.

Interested? Contact General Manager Robert Coppin.

Your Club Contacts:

General Manager Robert Coppin • Club Chef Denis Groualle

Restaurant Supervisor Linda Sparkes • Bar Manager Sheila Studd

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