

Welcome from the new Chairman...

Welcome to the February 2013 edition of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club Newsletter, and a belated Happy New Year to one and all from myself and the Board of Directors.

As you will have deduced from the accompanying mug-shot, the fates have decreed that I should be your new Chairman for the next two years, and I urge you take the news with as much stoicism as you can muster.

I for one feel very honoured (if not a little surprised) to have been elevated to the Chairman's office, and pledge to do my best for all members of the Club and our excellent staff.

My first duty is of course to pay tribute to my splendid predecessor Martin Wood, who brought intelligence, business acumen, eloquence, diplomacy and (according to several lady members) not a little glamour to the role.

This was all excellent news for the Club but can make life rather difficult for the poor sap that has to follow this class act.

To summarize some of the successes under the two-year Wood regime, we have improved our financial position, increased membership and significantly improved the fabric of the building –

a pretty impressive record as I am sure you will agree.

Highlights of Martin's term in office included turning the car park into a country house lawn (astroturf) for the Diamond Dinner, pushing membership to a thoroughly impressive 554, (which incidentally makes us just 46 short of our capped target of 600), and the enlargement and enhancement of the Club terrace which has proved to be extremely popular in the warmer weather.

And finally, I am delighted to announce that Stephen Firmin has accepted my invitation to become Vice Chairman, bringing the benefit of his incisive legal brain to Club matters and his charming legal wife to Club functions. What more could one ask?

So to conclude, I look forward to my term in office and will be delighted if we have even half the success of the last two years.



2013/14 Club Chairman, Andrew Booth.

However, with the backing of Gerry Barnes, Pauline Young, David Green, Steve Croucher, Allan Gosling, the Club Board of Directors, Robert Coppin and his team, Denis and his kitchen crew, plus all those members who give so much of their time and energy; I firmly believe that we are in great shape to remain East Anglia's premier Club.

Andrew Booth
Chairman

A note from the Club President

I am pleased to say that the social activities of the Club continue to be well supported including both the Restaurant Nights and the Speaker's Lunches. Much of the credit for this must be given to those members who lead the various activities and to Robert for making the arrangements.

The highlights of the last half year must surely be the Member's Annual Dinner and the Carol Service which once again achieved record attendances. Regrettably I missed the Carol Service with a bad cold and I am sure that I would not have been welcome! Our thanks are again due to our members, Charles Jenkin the Vicar, and Michael Nicholson the Director of Music at St Mary le Tower, for arranging and conducting the Service.

At the Annual Dinner a special toast



Club President, Gerry Barnes.

was given to the two directors (Andrew Booth and Stephen Firmin) who in accordance with tradition carved the turkeys on the sideboard in the Dining Room. One of the most impressive aspects of the evening was the way in which Bob Sambrook had tied his Club bow tie putting the other members (including myself) to shame. His tie was completely balanced with all the

vertical stripes equidistant on both sides. Perhaps he might be persuaded to conduct a master-class to improve the standards.

I normally prefer not to mention individually the various speakers at our lunches but make an exception as one was really a continuation of the Club's celebration of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It is always something special when a member of the Club is the speaker and Tim Dansie gave us a great insight into the Thames Pageant in which he

sailed his boat – one of The Little Ships of Dunkirk.

I must once again congratulate the ladies, led by Carole Booth, then the Vice-Chairman's wife – now the Chairman's wife, in again holding a Christmas Charity Fayre, (which this time was held in support of Suffolk Family Carers) and for raising such a magnificent sum.

News from the fabric front...

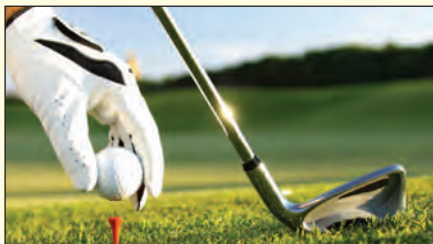
Recent visitors to the Club will, I hope, have noticed that the entrance lobby and hall have been redecorated and are now looking rather smart. The rear lobby has also had a lick of paint. The ladies loo has had a damp problem to the rear wall and this has now been dry-lined and redecorated.

We, at the Fabric Department, are now working ourselves up to undertake what will be a fairly major 'make over' of the Adam Room and the work is scheduled to be undertaken in August of this year. We are looking to source a pair of large 'Adam style' chandeliers for this magnificent room, so if any member can help please do get in touch.

Part of the garden around the rear car park has been lying fallow for the last few months so I am pleased to report that a new gardener has been appointed - a lady - and the new planting will be starting shortly.

Richard Hawkins and Trudi Nicholls

Golf News



The Annual golf day at Purdis in September was again a great success. We had 17 Ipswich & Suffolk players and 5 guests (some of which we hope may become new members) and the results were as follows:

1st place George McLellan, 2nd Norman Conder and 3rd Robbie Adams. Martin Wood, our Club Chairman at the time, had the best back 9 and nearest the pin.

A date for your diary is Wednesday 4th September 2013 when once again our Annual golf day takes place at Ipswich Golf Club (Purdis) with a dinner afterwards at the Ipswich & Suffolk Club. A list will be on the sporting notice board about 3 months before the event or contact me a@allangosling.com

Please remember that guests are now welcome at this event.

Finally, we are now making arrangements for this year's annual fixtures against our friends at Colchester Garrison and the Bury Farmers Club and I will be recruiting teams for both these events shortly.

Very Best Wishes for a good golfing year.

Allan Gosling.



All aboard for the Speaker's Lunch

Long-standing Club member Tim Dansie addressed a packed house at the January 17th Club Speaker's Lunch.

His subject and the star of the show was his beloved sailing boat "Stenoa" which he skippered at the Queen's Pageant Thames Flotilla, marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

Stenoa can boast a distinguished career as a former Newhaven Lifeboat and as one of the "Little Ships of Dunkirk" that saved so many lives in 1940.



Club General Manager, Robert Coppin.

General Manager's Notes

It's been hard work for the past six months with new Club members joining in the autumn and boosting our business. Christmas was an exceptional month with strong trading right from the start of December and then flowing into the New Year and I have only just caught my breath for this Newsletter.

The Club team are now stronger than ever and working well and I am confident that we will deliver all that's expected for 2013 for our members as we are looking to push the level of service and standard of cuisine up another notch.

I have been exploring new ideas for the Social Calendar and hope you will trust my judgment and participate in some of the more adventurous events. I have focused on our local area to find those jewels that are right under our nose and also some very interesting speakers who will enlighten us on what we have lost from our area.

New Members since the September 2012 newsletter

Mr Paul Dawson

Mrs Julia Gooch

Mr David Woodings

Mrs Marian Beales

Mr William Young

Mr Edward White

Mr & Mrs Norman & Heather Haines

Dr Christopher Tinker

Mrs Daphne Hansford

Mr Neil Woodcock

Miss Janet Maidment

Mr Laurence Collins

Mr Andrew Edge

Mr & Mrs Richard & Valerie Jeffery

Snooker and Billiards News



The Winter Snooker and Billiards Competitions are progressing well but I would ask all competitors to arrange their matches as early as possible to avoid the delays caused for players in subsequent rounds.

The winners of the Autumn Cooper Tankards were Lewis Johnston and Nick Baker. The winners of the Dick Berrisford "Christmas Bash" were Malcolm Stredwick and David Lawrence - and that despite being played after lunch! This fixture has proved very popular - perhaps it's timing has something to do with that! Our Snooker activities generally have been well supported by the Club's players and we are having a good spell with full entry lists for all our Cooper Tankards and Bill Allin competitions. We continue to play a full programme of matches with Neil Jackson's Cretingham Golf Club being the most recent addition to the list of opponents. Overall, we win more matches than we lose but, win or lose, members of both teams seem to thoroughly enjoy the evenings, which is the reason we all continue playing.

The oldest fixture of all is the annual match against Bury Farmers Club, played for the Snooker Challenge Cup. This has been held since 1951 and traditionally, each team has entertained their opponents in alternate years.

Sadly, Bury Farmers Club will be forced to sell one of their tables to enable them to let the room, so they will no longer be able to host the match. All is not lost however, as it has been agreed that we in future host all the matches at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club, with the teams continuing to take turns to pay for the meal. The eight-a-side fixture played in the autumn will also continue and be played here.

It is interesting to recall that about 15 years ago, our own Directors were faced with a similar problem and were contemplating a similar course of action. Fortunately for us, they had the foresight to encourage increased use of the facilities instead, which contributed to the successful situation that we enjoy today. The snooker facilities are available for all Club members and they are very welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings.

David Green.

Spring/Summer Fashion Show

Last November the Club hosted another successful Charity Fashion Show. On the dining room 'cat walk' were fashion collections from Hintlesham Barns and Dressed on Deck.

A warm welcome was given to Sarah Harvey from Lighthouse Womens Aid who gave a brief but thought-provoking and informative talk on the work of this charity.

The Club was delighted to present Sarah with a cheque for £455 as a result of proceeds from the evening, and a new link was forged with an important local charity.

On Thursday 28th March the Club is giving Hintlesham Barns and Dressed on Deck another opportunity to showcase their Spring and Summer collections. As always, there will be an opportunity to buy after the show, and this will include not only fashions but also homewear, accessories and gifts. In addition, Maureen Gerber from Peter Gerber Accessories will be bringing along handbags, jewellery and ladieswear, so all in all, there will be plenty to tempt us!

Tickets are priced at £30 and include welcome drinks, canapés, a two course meal with wine, fashion show and a donation to The Stroke Association.

Every year 150,000 people in the UK have a stroke. Although most of these are older, an estimated quarter of all strokes happen to under 65s and even some children and babies. A stroke changes lives and the Stroke Association aims to provide crucial practical and emotional support. In addition, the Association is dedicated to funding ground-breaking research in order to aid understanding and improve the lives of victims and carers.

Do come along and enjoy a chance to welcome in the new season while supporting an excellent cause. Guests are most welcome but as always, please book early to avoid disappointment.

Carole Booth.



Carole Booth presenting a cheque for £455 to Sarah Harvey of Lighthouse Women's Aid.

From the Wine Committee...

Following some very well attended wine tasting sessions in 2012, we began our program for 2013 on February 1st, with a particularly enjoyable tasting of Italian wines, accompanied by wonderful Italian food from our French chef! A very successful evening indeed.

On April 20th we are trying a new style of tasting, giving our members a chance to experience a variety of wines from which to choose for our next wine list.

This will be a more informal evening, and it will give you an opportunity to discuss the wines with our supplier and members of the Wine Committee.



Also new in June is a tour and tasting of a local vineyard.

Finally our ever-popular bubbles evening takes place on July 5th. Please make sure you book early to avoid disappointment!!

Bruce Murrill.

Looking back to Christmas

A wonderfully festive time was had by one and all on Saturday 1st December, when the Club hosted its second Charity Christmas Fayre. Particular thanks are due to the following for their indispensable help on the day:

Linda Britt, Barbara Finbow, Janet Firmin, Rosemary Holly, Jane Leeburn, Teresa McLellan, Beverley Monk, Ruth Shelley and Julie Wood.



Alison Nightingale of Suffolk Family Carers receiving a cheque for £837 from Barbara Finbow.

The standard of cakes and preserves on sale was, once again, outstanding. My sincere thanks also to members who took the time and trouble to contribute in any way, whether donating, baking, stall-holding or coming along on a chilly day to support the event.

A magnificent £837 was raised for Suffolk Family Carers, another vital local charity which the Club looks forward to continuing to support in the future.

Carole Booth.

Read all about it

The Ipswich and Suffolk Club Book Group continues to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.15 in the morning, for a relaxed and friendly chat about chosen books.

This spring the group will be discussing *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce in March, followed by any novel by Rose Tremain in April, a book set in Scandinavia in May and a biography in June.

New members are most welcome.

Recent Club Events

In recent months, there have been a large number of highly successful events held at the Club, including the ever-popular Burns' Night, (below) and flower arranging presentation (right).

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.



Bridge Club

Since the last newsletter the Bridge Club has again increased the numbers attending our Tuesday morning sessions. The average number of tables playing now is six.

Membership is almost full; however, we can accept one more pair who would like to play with us on a regular basis.

Congratulations must go to Don Betts who has won the Bridge trophy for the second time in three years, with an average percentage of 56.0% from 39 playing sessions. Commiserations go to Leela Smith who was runner-up with 55.9% from 44 playing sessions.

Congratulations also to Gina Williams and David Weaver, who playing as partners achieved a very high winning score of 72.6% on the 10th July 2012.

On behalf of my wife Margaret and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Bridge Club most sincerely for inviting us to a wonderful Christmas luncheon in the Club on Tuesday 18th December and for both the beautiful Orchid arrangement presented to her and the excellent selection of wines presented to me. Thank you all.

Steve Croucher.

