

JANUARY 2021



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

OUTPOST

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"BCB winners of the Dawee Squash Rackets Cup"
"BCB winners of the men's Tennis Inter Club Tournament"



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Each month we like to introduce some of the New Members who have recently joined the Club.
These are some of the Members who joined in the last few months



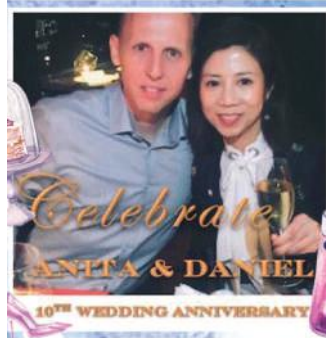
▲ Johan, Lydia, Heyden and Xander



▲ Antony, Juliet and Henry



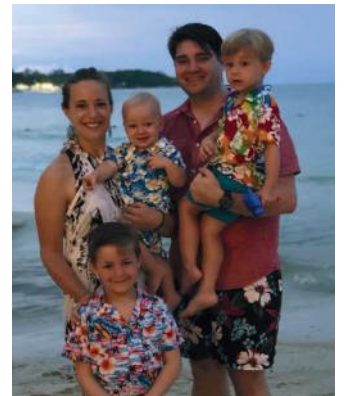
▲ Andrew, Nicola, Olive, Etienne and Amelie



▲ Daniel and Anita



▲ Akitaka



▲ Eric, Marinda, Caleb, Clayton and Everett



▲ Michael, Manique, Erica and Hannah



▲ Dennis, Jan and Lena



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honorary.secretary@britishclubbangkok.org

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honorary.treasurer@britishclubbangkok.org

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gc@britishclubbangkok.org

CLUB HISTORIAN

Paul Cheesman

ClubHistorian@britishclubbangkok.org

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

General Manager

Premrudee Tanyaluck

gm@britishclubbangkok.org

Deputy General Manager

Tee Bale

tee@britishclubbangkok.org

Duty Manager

Bhudhist Kongrattakul

bcbhudhist@outlook.com

Membership Sales Manager

Aphinya Toonim

aphinya@britishclubbangkok.org

Service & Function Manager

Somboon Chaiyapom

somboon@britishclubbangkok.org

Executive Chef

Kornnisa Nonku

wilailuck@britishclubbangkok.org

Sports Manager

Amnat Saklepradu

sport@britishclubbangkok.org

THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

189 Suriwongse Road, Bangkok 10500

Entrance via Silom Soi 18

Tel: +66 (0) 2234 0247

Fax: +66 (0) 2235 1560



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"BCB winners of the men's Tennis Inter Club Tournament"

This Month

This packed edition includes a round up of all the special events leading up to Christmas and the New Year as well sports news including very special trophy wins for the Tennis and Squash Sections.

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Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at the time of press.

Outpost welcomes contributions from Members, email outpost@britishclubbangkok.org

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Jack Dunford

Chairman's Message

A Better New Year! Covid-19 affected all of our lives in 2020 but hopefully 2021 will be a better year for everyone.

As I write, new virus surges make the immediate future uncertain but we have been incredibly lucky to be living in Thailand when most of the world has been lockdown. This month's Outpost is packed with pictures of happy events the Club was able to squeeze in leading up to Christmas. Thank you to all of our wonderful staff who have worked so hard for our enjoyment.

The Thai authorities have done a fantastic job handling the crisis so far and the Club will cooperate closely should new restrictions be required. With vaccines soon to be available we can surely look forward to better times ahead.

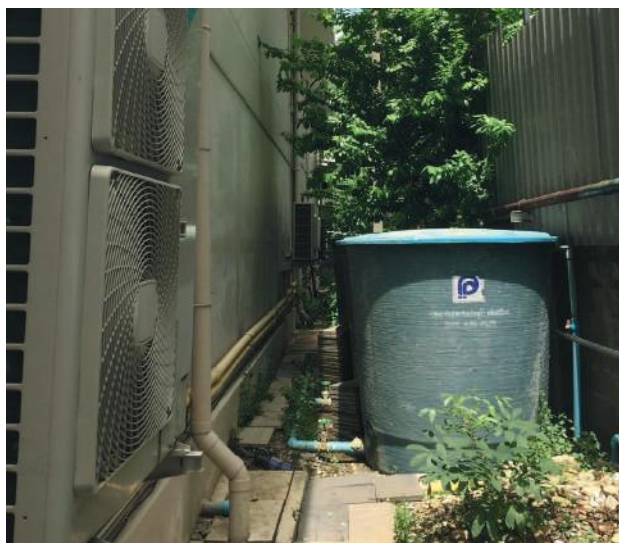
Honours Boards: All of the old wooden Honours Boards that once adorned Reception and the staircase have now been replaced with modern printed versions. Whilst the old boards had a certain traditional charm they were very difficult to maintain. The gold lettering aged unevenly and many names had become difficult to read. Repainting or adding names was very expensive. The old boards were also very large and we had run out of hanging space. The new boards can readily be redesigned and reprinted and this month Paul Cheesman our Club Historian has been able to add a lot of new names of Chairmen and Honorary Secretaries from the early years. We are now looking to add brief historical notes to the Loyal Society Boards and first names where these were not listed.

Racquet Triumphs: Both the Tennis and Squash sections pulled off rare trophy wins in December. The British Club was crowned 2020 Men's Interclub Tennis Doubles Champions for the first time in the event's 30+ year history and the Squash Section pulled off a rare 8-2 victory over the mighty Royal Bangkok Sports Club for the Dawee Cup named after Air Chief Marshall Dawee Chullasapya, a prominent military leader and politician who was head of the Thai Olympic Committee for many years. This annual trophy match has been played since 1971 and although for various reasons the match did not take place a number of years, the Club has only previously won it about 10 times. Well done to both the Tennis and Squash Sections which are thriving under enthusiastic leadership.

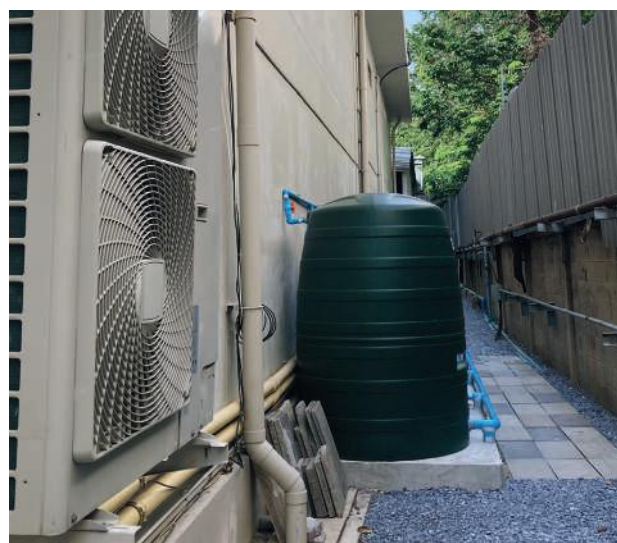
Poolside Redevelopment: The Phase 2 Demolition and Piling contracts have been signed and work will begin on 7th January. This will be the noisiest phase of the project but all normal services will continue and the main swimming pool and tennis courts will remain open for use. Details of the project can be found in the Members Section of the Club Website under 'Club Development' where there will be regular updates as the project progresses.



REPORTINGS



▲ Old Water Tanks



▲ New Water Tanks

Website: The Club Website has served well for the last 4 years but is due for an upgrade. Design details are being finalised and it is hoped to launch a new site in the first quarter of year which will not only look better, work faster and be slicker to navigate, but will also be easier for Club staff to update and maintain. The plan is to then follow this up with a long-requested and overdue booking App.

Club House Improvements: Quotations are now being reviewed for replacing the old air-conditioning units in the Suriwongse Room and a designer is working on concepts for upgrading the Verandah restaurant.

Water Tanks and Pumps: Perhaps not the most exciting news of the month but the new water tanks are now installed behind the Silom Wing clearing access at the back of the building which was blocked by the 17-year-old ones. Similarly a new water pump is being installed in the Silom Road end car park as part of

water drainage improvements that will all be in place for the next rainy season,

Membership Cards: The new proximity Membership cards have been well received and are working well. Members are to be congratulated for excellent cooperation getting the system working. However, we are now further improving the system by introducing a new card design that will rationalise the information displayed and standardise the quality of the photographs. These are being introduced immediately for newly elected Members and all other Members are asked to change the current cards for new ones. This can be done at any time, please just bring your old cards to Reception where a new standard photograph will be taken and a new card issued. The old cards will remain valid until this is done.

Flowers. Observant readers may have noticed some flower pictures in my last few Outpost Messages. The gardeners have been working hard to add this dash of colour around the Club and I hope you agree that the Grounds have rarely looked better.





What do you know about “Domicile”?

By Martin Wright, The Fry Group

HOW DO WE GET OUR DOMICILE?

A Domicile of Origin is acquired at birth and is that of the child’s father (where the parents were married), and of the child’s mother (where the parents were not). Then at the age of 16 in England and Wales a child can choose another domicile if they wish.

For non-British nationals, it was not always that simple. Women born before 1 January 1974 took a domicile of their husband whatever country that was, after that date, they kept their own domicile.

DOMICILE

When it comes to working with British expatriate clients, one of the largest most complex challenge can be domicile status, since it drives the extent of their UK Inheritance Tax (IHT) liabilities. Determining this and providing advice around this is hugely important.

The key to understanding whether you are liable to IHT is the concept of domicile. If you are domiciled in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, UK IHT applies to your global assets. If you are domiciled elsewhere, UK IHT is usually only charged on assets held in the UK.

With inheritance tax on death currently charged at 40%

over the nil rate band (£325,000) it is important to understand the position for the next generation as there could be an unpleasant tax bill on the estate of the individual who passes away.

It is important to note that long term UK absence does not mean a Domicile of Choice has been acquired somewhere else (i.e. other than the UK). This is a common misconception as establishing a permanent home where one is expecting to remain for the rest of one’s days and severing your ties with the UK is more important and is actually what HMRC are looking to see.

By example, we often meet individuals who have lived and worked in numerous locations around the world, perhaps being outside of the UK for 25 years+ and who have now settled in Thailand.

In these cases almost all of the previous periods of non-UK residency are irrelevant, although it could have been the case that during that time the individual had acquired a domicile of choice in another location, as perhaps it was their intention to remain permanently at that point.

Things do change of course and this is where understanding one’s domicile position is highly important. There are many confusing aspects to this, which often lead to HMRC taking a negative view of the position on death, resulting in significant tax bills for estate beneficiaries.

To further expand on the example, after moving around different locations, and finally settling in Thailand, the intention to remain permanently is most important. Even if that means yearly renewable/reviewable retirement Visa's, or anything other than permanent residency or citizenship. It is not the fact of the allowable stay period before review/renewal, it is the intention of the individual which is most important.

There is no distinct timeline of how long one must be in a location where they wish to remain permanently, to determine whether a domicile of choice has been acquired.

It is more related to how serious the intent is and what steps have been taken to demonstrate that. This may, with the right steps, be a relatively short period of time, if all the significant steps that were logical and viable had been taken.

Historically, it was possible to make an application to HMRC to obtain a ruling that you had become non UK domiciled, however this is no longer the case.

However, this does need to be a significant movement of money so that HMRC are sufficiently interested in the level of tax they may be due.

The only way to understand one's domicile position is to have a professional review carried out by a sufficiently experienced individual. Your domicile of choice will only be tested by HM Revenue after you have passed away. At that point you are not around to 'fight your corner'. Therefore, a formal domicile opinion and other documented evidence can be held in readiness against a challenge from HM Revenue after you have passed away.

For a British married couple transferring assets on death any level is free from UK inheritance tax.

For a married couple with different domiciles (UK to a non-UK domiciled spouse) the amount is restricted to the normal £325,000 nil rate band, plus a further £325,000 for assets passed during your lifetime, therefore a maximum of £650,000 could be passed UK IHT free.

It can be possible to overcome this with an election in lifetime or on the death of the UK domiciled spouse for the non-UK spouse to adopt a UK Domicile. However, care is needed to understand if this will be most effective in overall Inheritance Tax planning as it may result in the worldwide estate being held by a spouse who has elected to be UK domiciled. The entire worldwide estate at that point is then potentially chargeable to UK IHT.

As it is complicated; professional advice is required.

UK INHERITANCE TAX CHANGES?

Following requests from the previous Chancellor and Financial Secretary to HM Treasury, Phillip Hammond, the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS is an independent arm of the Treasury) carried out two reports over the last few years on the UK's Inheritance Tax system, on the assumption it is too complex and outdated.

The latest plan for a shake-up would 'increase fairness, cut complexity and reduce avoidance', according to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Inheritance & Intergenerational Fairness, led by Tory John Stevenson who represents Carlisle.

The APPG compiled its report on 24 February this year, and although the initial indications are that most households remain unaffected, and smaller estates would pay nothing, undoubtedly some people will be worse off as is often the case.

No proposals have made it to legislation just yet, but could this be a time to increase the revenue for HMRC from inheritance tax to fund the COVID-19 stimulus package costs?

Whenever changes are afoot it is sensible to review your circumstances and plan-ahead as best you can, whilst understanding tax legislation, rates & allowances can change swiftly and sometimes retrospectively.



Martin Wright
Senior Financial Planner
The Fry Group (Singapore)

Disclaimer

The information in this article aims to provide information. However, this is not intended to form professional advice nor should it be relied upon as such and before taking any particular action, specific and personal advice should be obtained. All levels and basis of, and relief from taxation illustrated here are subject to change. The Fry Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd is authorised to act as a financial adviser by the Monetary Authority of Singapore - licence number FA100057.

The Fry Group (Singapore)
6 Battery Road, #16-04/05
Singapore 049909

T. (65) 6225 0825
E. advice@thefrygroup.sg
W. thefrygroup.sg

*Tee Bale*

The year 2020 has been one of the most challenging and unexpected in the Club's history, the outbreak of Covid-19 saw the Club like most businesses in the world turned upside down in a matter of weeks. We would like to thank all the members and the staff for their direct and indirect actions that helped the Club through some of the most difficult times earlier this year. One positive thing that came from our lockdown was the club delivery service, this was created and run solely by British Club staff in the lockdown period, the support from the members was fantastic and we really enjoyed assisting everyone throughout that time with the best of the Club's food and beverage delivered directly to your door.



BRITISH CLUB
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" Tee Talk "

Christmas was a very special time this year, all the families, new members and old members alike came together to make up the 500+ attendees at our Christmas lunch, not forgetting Santa who arrived and surprised all the children with sacks of presents. The Mad Hatters Christmas party was another of our end of year highlights, well done to everyone who won the raffle prizes and to everyone that made it a great success.

The start of a new year is always an exciting time, we like most are hoping for a much better and more positive year for everyone in the world and truly believe it will happen, to make sure we head in the right direction we start the year with our Polar Swim, giant icebergs placed into the pool on January 1st for everyone to swim with and chill out, keep your eyes open for a special appearance from our very own Peter the Penguin, his dives into the pool are legendary.

We are happy to announce the appointment of two new staff to the British Club Team, Khun Apiwish, will be the club's new graphic designer, he has been involved with design and online work for over 15 years and has a strong IT background. Khun Metawee is our new sales and marketing manager also assisting with events, both look forward to meeting all the members and getting to know you.

Finally, we have finished the long awaited new a la carte menu and its set to launch in January, a complete overhaul and revamp on all sections, keeping the club's favourites and introducing a healthy feel across the full menu plus many new dishes to try, something we are sure you are going to enjoy.

▲ *Khun Apiwish - Graphic Designer*▲ *Khun Metawee - Sales and Marketing Manager*



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REPORTINGS

Membership Department



Ammy Aphinya

Happy new year members! Thank you for supporting the British Club through this tough year.

We hope you will continue enjoying the club in 2021 and look forward to the new Phase 2 facilities at the end of the year.

We also have more membership partners Santafe Relocation Company, Buster Fish & Chips, Vana belle a luxury collection resort Koh Samui. Now I am happy to welcome two of our new members.



▲ Khun Gareth Khun Jintana and Tawan

Member Review:

I first became aware of the British Club many years ago when I was staying nearby at the Shangri-La Hotel, on one of my many visits to Thailand. I subsequently had the opportunity to attend events held at the Club by the "Society of Profession Engineers Thailand (SPET)". One evening, as was waiting to attend a function upstairs, I happened to chance upon some extremely hospitable club members, being invited by them to participate in a dice game called BALUT. After being shown the Club and its facilities by the wonderful Khun Ammy, my wife and I decided the very next morning that we should take up membership. The Club's description of itself as being an oasis in the heart of Bangkok is most apt.—



▲ Khun Iain Khun Sarah Alice and Penny

Member Review:

We are a family of four who moved from the US to Bangkok in September. We were looking for a family friendly social club to enjoy our weekends, play sport and meet new people. We all play tennis and enjoy the pool. We have been to several social events already and have had a great time. Our favourite recent event was Guy Fawkes night, it was a fantastic. We immediately were made to feel welcome at the club and it feels like a vacation getaway in the heart of the city. We hope to enjoy many more fun times at the club. Khun Ammy has been so helpful throughout the application process and to date with excellent communication. We are so happy to be part of the British Club of Bangkok.

Bangkok Patana Life and Style Party

The BCCT Bangkok Patana Life and Style Party was held at the British Club for the first time on 3rd November with about 400 guests present. It featured the best of British in Bangkok with automobile stands, food and beverage booths featuring signature dishes from leading hotels and exhibits from leading British International schools. ■



Historia est vitae magistra

(Three months update)



▲ Chairmen boards – updated but not complete



▲ Almost complete - Hon Secs since 1903

The Brief

In September, it was announced that the role of Club Historian had two immediate goals:

- Research a list of all who served on the Club's General Committee from 1903 to 1941 as all records have been lost,
- Build through research a digital timeline of the activities of the Club during 1903 to 1941 as only a few items were known.

General Committees

We have now on record the names of every single committee member 1903 to 1941 (except for the years 1934-35 and 1939-40) and now know all but one of the Honorary Secretaries during that period. Sadly, official records do not show the names of our Chairmen before 1911 or between 1915 to 1919. We continue to look.

Some notably GC members:

- Thai Kings School headmaster, Christian Frederick Hare, served as Chairman twice and Honorary Secretary three times; Diplomat John Bailey was Chairman four times but only Honorary Secretary once while Bombay Burmah manager William Streetfeild was Chairman three times and Honorary Secretary three times!
- Four times Committee member Josiah Crosby became the His Britannic Majesty's Minister to Siam from 1933 to 1941.
- The 1924-1925 Honorary Secretary, Hugh Rudolph Bird, was appointed the first Charge D'Affaires to Thailand after the end of WWII.

- The 1935-1936 Honorary Secretary, Richard Whittington, served as British Ambassador to Thailand 1957 to 1961.

Digital Timeline

So far, we have added some 103 'entries' or photographs for the timeline from 1903 to 1941, and work is starting on the Second World War period and then the long task of the 75 years since the Club re-opened after the War. Luckily, most Club records are intact for this long stretch.

Notable facts:

- In 1921, upon his visit to Siam, we hosted a dinner for Alfred Harmsworth, 1st Viscount Northcliffe, founder of both the Daily Mail and Daily Mirror.
- In 1927 the Club was one of seven founding members of the Lawn Tennis Association of Siam under His Majesty's Patronage.
- In 1929 we hosted the British Solar Eclipse Expedition under the leadership of Lt-Colonel Frederick J. M. Stratton DSO OBE DL TD FRS PRAS, Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Cambridge.
- Eskell Andrews, the New Zealand Davis Cup player, played in an Exhibition match at the Club in 1931.
- Chao Phya Sridharmadhibes, Siamese Minister of Foreign Affairs, was guest of honour in 1939 when we hosted the Conference of the Eight District of Rotary International.

Paul Cheesman
Club Historian

Music Department Dazzle Audience at British Club Staff Recital

The talent of Shrewsbury's music department was on full display on the 26th of November. Following student performances of "School of Rock" on the previous three evenings, on this occasion, it was the teachers and music tutors who gave the British Club audience a glimpse of the expertise and flair that Shrewsbury students take inspiration from every day.

After a delightful reception on the British Club lawn, the show began with a spectacular drumming display from Head of Percussion, Ms Thayarat (Tommy) Sopolpong. Playing only snare drum, Ms Tommy - Principal Percussionist for the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra - exhibited subtle technique that allowed her to produce some unique and surprising sounds; a perfect way to open the proceedings.

Ms Tommy was followed by Director of Music, Mr David Place and Head of Keyboards, Ms Irina Novikova who brightened the evening with a Tchaikovsky piece, 'Dance Neapolitan'. The vocal talents of the staff were then centre stage as Director of Choral, Dr Onyu Park, vocal coach Ms Ploen Sopitpongstorn and primary music teacher/guitarist Mr Ron Saw performed their respective numbers; each performance garnering a full-blooded round of applause.

Not to be outdone, Francois Doppler's 'Andante and Rondo for Two Flutes and a Piano' was performed by Flautists Ms Debbie Tulloch and Ms Tatjana Sanhofer with backing from the incomparable Mr Channarong (Jay) Jantararat on Piano. Very much the unsung hero of the evening, Mr Jay, a former Shrewsbury music scholar and graduate of the Royal College of Music, gave support to a number of the musicians, gaining recognition for his flawless performances throughout.

Fans of woodwind also enjoyed brilliant performances from Mr Yos (Clarinet) and Mr Supat (Saxophone) who added beautiful tone and colour to a highly varied music programme.

Mr Place returned to complete the first half of the programme alongside fellow trumpeters Steve Jackman (Head of Academic Music) and Mr Paul Archibald, one of three newest world class additions to the music department this year, and to whom the second half of the evening was dedicated.



▲ *At the British Club*



▲ *Tommy-Thayarat Sopolpong-Percussion Teacher*



▲ *Onyu Park_Director of Choral*



▲ *Ms Debbie Tulloch, Ms Tatjana Sanhofer and Mr Channarong Jantararat*



▲ *Ronald Saw-Junior School Music Teacher*

Rhys Watkins' resume makes for very impressive reading, indeed. A recitalist, soloist and first desk violinist for the London Symphony Orchestra, Mr Watkins has performed in many of the world's best concert halls. On this occasion though, it was the British Club audience that had the pleasure of witnessing his extraordinary talent – much of it in tandem with the other half of the Watkins Duo, cellist Rowena Calvert.

Rowena, Shrewsbury's Head of Strings, also has a tremendous resume to match her flawless playing. The former member of the Cavaleri Quartet, Artistic Director of Hertford International Concert Series and multiple award-winning cellist delivered characteristically high energy performances to wow members, guests and Shrewsbury's own staff alike. Given that Shrewsbury strings students are under her and Mr Watkins tutelage, it is no wonder Shrewsbury students continue to impress in Thailand and abroad.



▲ *Watkins Duo*

Mr Paul Archibald, Head of Woodwind & Brass at Shrewsbury is a celebrated trumpeter who has played in concert halls from Germany to Russia and England to Ethiopia. The founder of the English Music Academy and English Brass Academy, is able to get so much out of his instrument that he has played with such musical heavyweights as Sir Paul McCartney, Shirley Bassey and Barbara Streisand. Here in Thailand, he imparts his knowledge to aspiring brass and woodwind students who are very grateful for his patience and attentiveness. Playing at the British Club as both a soloist and with the Watkins Duo, Mr Archibald produced his full array of talents to an adoring crowd, who thanked all three with a roaring applause at the end of Manic's 'Moon River' – the final number on the night.

In attendance, Shrewsbury Principal, Mr Chris Seal thanked the audience and paid homage to the talents of all the musicians on the night.

"We are blessed to have such amazing people educate our young musicians. I am sure you can tell, that Shrewsbury music is in great health. All of the musicians you have seen tonight performed with their heart and soul and have contributed to a wonderful evening."

Director of Music, Mr David Place, echoed Mr Seal with similar sentiments.

"The people you saw here tonight are not only brilliant educators, but also some of the finest musicians around. Their dedication to their craft is a real inspiration to their students and is the basis on which Shrewsbury has built its well-deserved reputation for musical excellence."

If you want to know more about the Shrewsbury Music department, please follow the link on our website here.

<https://www.shrewsbury.ac.th/riverside/co-curricular/music>



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Movies Under the Stars

170 moviegoers sat out on the Back Lawn on 14th November for Movies Under The Stars to enjoy Trolls on Tour and Rocketman. With turnouts like this we will soon be investing in more deckchairs, beanbags and popcorn machines!





Guys Fawkes Night

Well over 350 Members and guests attended the Guy Fawkes celebration on 15th November enjoying live music and magic shows before a sensational firework display from the Club House roof.





New Members Night

The New Members Night on 15th December was busy with 10 new Members present together with family Members! ■



▲ Saro Artinian



▲ Triin Udris, Simon Christian



▲ Stewart Raeside, Natalie Strongman



▲ Oliver Muller, Marcela Chacon



▲ Marcela Chacon,
Harriett Robinson



▲ Anthony Liddiard



▲ James Wheatley, Harriet Robinson



1903

THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

JANUARY 2021

SUN

MON

TUE

3



Sunday Brunch
9.30am - 3.00pm

4

Sports Camp
9.30am - 3.30pm
Mini Sports Camp
10.00am - 2.30pm

5



Yoga
10.00pm-11.00pm
Sports Camp
9.30am - 3.30pm
Mini Sports Camp
10.00am - 2.30pm

10



Sunday Brunch
9.30am - 3.00pm

11

12



Yoga
10.00pm-11.00pm
Quiz Night
7.15pm

17



Junior Cricket
8.45am - 10.00am
Sunday Brunch
9.30am - 3.00pm

18

19



Yoga
10.00pm-11.00pm

24



Junior Cricket
8.45am - 10.00am
Sunday Brunch
9.30am - 3.00pm

25

26



Yoga
10.00pm-11.00pm

31



Junior Cricket
8.45am - 10.00am
Sunday Brunch
9.30am - 3.00pm

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

6

Sports Camp
9.30am - 3.30pm
Mini Sports Camp
10.00am - 2.30pm
Balut
6.00pm - 8.00pm

7

Swimming Lesson
Tony
7.00am - 8.00am
Sports Camp
9.30am - 3.30pm
Mini Sports Camp
10.00am - 2.30pm

1

Polar Swim
2.00pm - 5.00pm
Senior Cricket
5.15pm - 6.30pm
Yoga
5.00pm - 6.00pm

2

Yoga
9.00am - 11.00am

13

Pilates Classes
10.30am - 11.30pm
Balut
6.00pm - 8.00pm

14

Swimming Lesson
Tony
7.00am - 8.00am

15

Junior tennis
4.15pm - 6.00pm
Yoga
5.00pm - 6.00pm
Senior Cricket
5.15pm - 6.30pm

16

Yoga
10.00am - 11.00am

20

Pilates Classes
10.30am - 11.30pm
Balut
6.00pm - 8.00pm

21

Swimming Lesson
Tony
7.00am - 8.00am

22

Junior tennis
4.15pm - 6.00pm
Yoga
5.00pm - 6.00pm
Senior Cricket
5.15pm - 6.30pm

23

Yoga
10.00am - 11.00am

27

Pilates Classes
10.30am - 11.30pm
Balut
6.00pm - 8.00pm

28

Swimming Lesson
Tony
7.00am - 8.00am

29

Junior tennis
4.15pm - 6.00pm
Yoga
5.00pm - 6.00pm
Senior Cricket
5.15pm - 6.30pm

30

Yoga
10.00am - 11.00am
Wine Tasting
6.00pm-9.00pm

Quiz Night

12th Jan 2021 The Verandah 7:15PM

Team of 6 or less

Member 150 Baht Guests 200 Baht



Wow!

...



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Quiz night

6 Teams joined the Quiz Night on 8th December for a festive frolic with lavish lucky draw prizes. Although the Doctors won the usual slugfest with Slumbag College for the top honours they were given a fright by the GC team who excelled at Christmas trivia, not only not coming last for the first time, but finishing in a dizzy third place and beating the ladies. The ladies took it well ... sort of! ■





Wine Tasting

The special Annual Wine Tasting was held on the Front Lawn on Saturday 28th November, serenaded by Khun Nahpak on her guitar on a balmy cool season evening. 7 Suppliers ensured that over 160 Members and guests had plenty of choice to stock up for the festive season.





Christmas Carols

Three school choirs had to withdraw from our carol night due to a local Covid scare but this did not dampen the spirits of the three School Choirs who did turn up with their enthusiastic supporters. The Carols were beautiful in contrasting styles with over 50 young children from St Andrews starting the show off, brilliant singing and pianist solos from Kings School rounded off by polished harmonics from Shrewsbury School. Festive Fare was enjoyed by all.





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JAMES F. RAND **1943-2020**

James joined the British Club in September 1982 and was employed by Louis T. Leonowens at the time. James was an extremely gifted linguist – he was entirely fluent in several Chinese dialects and Russian and had an impressive vocabulary in both Thai and Cambodian.

James travelled extensively in Russia, from Moscow to Vladivostok, and throughout China, working on projects in factory construction and agriculture to name two of his areas of skill. He served as a General Committee Member from 1996 to 1997.

Sadly, James suffered from a severe stroke in December 2019 and passed away on 21 November 2020. The funeral was a private family affair and James is survived by a wife and two daughters.





The Mad Hatters Christmas Party



An enthusiastic crowd determined to enjoy themselves made the Mad Hatters Christmas Party on 19th December decidedly the most fun night of the year. The atmosphere was electric from the start with pre-dinner cocktails on the Front Lawn serenaded by the excellent The Grumps Band and everyone enjoying the chance to admire and show off some creative, glittering, and really mad hatters. The setting on the Back Lawn was sensational, the food was sumptuous and the Boss Band backed up by DJ Stevie J. packed the stage with mad hatters energetically dancing the night away. It was over all too soon ... don't miss next year!







Graham Johnston

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year. While 2020 was a challenging one for many off court, the British Club Tennis Section light has been shining brightly ...

Whodunit?



▲ xxxxxxxx

We did it!

After 30+ years of trying, The British Club Bangkok finally got its hands on the coveted Men's Interclub Doubles Tournament trophy. After two fairly comfortable victories in our opening matches, the final match of the tournament pitted British Club against umpteen times past champions Silom. With four matches played and two still on court, the scores were tied at 2-2 and the atmosphere

Tennis

Dear yellow ball roasters and toasters,



▲ *Tennis2020 Men's Interclub Doubles Tournament Champions*

was tense. Our banker 110 team of Frank & James had fought back from an early deficit to lead 7-6 in a first to 8 game encounter. After a first match point went begging, James took on an overhead (as the crowd silently urged him to bounce it) and put it away with aplomb. 3-2 British Club and sighs of relief. It was now down to Neung and Remi to seal the deal. They promptly lost the first two games ... cue more pacing around and fingernail chewing. Our boys steadied the ship though and moved ahead 6-4 ahead ... it was almost done ... Chris arrived with timely beers, and just as we started to think about celebrating the boys were broken and at 6-5 the match was back in the balance. Time for a few Remi special returns for the break back, followed by a few 'boom-boom shake the room' serves from Neung to bring us to Championship point. Another big serve and delicate little backhand drop shot from our local hero wrapped up the match and the tournament. FANTASTIC STUFF!

Big thanks to K. Sassaluck, K. Suang and their team at FBT Pyramid for hosting the event (on our behalf) – great job! Big thanks to K. Phairoj, K. Sassaluck (again), and K. Yubharet for their help in organizing for the event – It couldn't have been done without you. Big Thanks to our supporters who cheered us on from the stands on the day – Thanks for matching the Silom Supporters Club for once! And finally, thanks to all the players for representing the club, the team, and themselves with such distinction. I couldn't have wished to compete with a better bunch. 120 – Harold Mollin & Robert McGuigan 110 – Frank Gluck & James Young 100 – Gary Sakuma & Jim Fralick 90 – Graham Johnston, Kazuhiro Hara 80 – Faheem Ebrahim & Andrei Ivanov and 70 – Neung Kedbhatara & Remi Bourrat.

SPORTS



▲ *Fun times for all*

The Thai National Open Championships singles and doubles were played over consecutive weekends in early December. There were solid performances by several British Club members – Gary Sakuma, Marc Nassume, Frank Gluck, Jim Fralick and K. Phairoj.

They did it!

A combination of touch & power – Thai National Open 45+ Doubles Champions K. Puak (the magician) and Andrei Ivanov battled past some tough opponents and saved match point before taking the win – excellent work gents.

cent months, Pierre is clearly in great shape and was too much for those in his own age bracket. Congratulations to the 2020 Thai National Open 35+ Singles Champion – fabulous stuff Mr Sequier.



He did it!

After battling it out with the top local youngsters in the Singha events re-

▲ *Job done and homeward bound Hara-san*



▲ *The Last Match*



▲ *Local Hero*



▲ *Pierre 2020 Thai National Open 35+ Men's Singles Champion*

SQUASHY BITS

Phuket Tour:

Notwithstanding Covid, the BC boys took an unofficial squash trip down to Phuket with a mitigating excuse of celebrating Nick's 40th. Through Ronnie's world class squash contacts, he managed to arrange a game against Phuket's finest, including current over 65 squash, Men's world champion. Being day two of a four-day celebration, putting the first match at 9am off the back of two hours sleep, seemed sensible. No matter, as Lob had committed at the last minute, with Jo's blessings, to join the party. He flew in the morning of, after twelve hours sleep, and as the forward operating party stumbled into the Hilton squash courts looking a little unkept, Lob had beaten the current World Champion 2-0! With years on his side, Lob would have been expected to take the 67-year-old to best of five. Lob had other ideas, and after looking as exhausted as a Canadian who'd chopped down trees all day, stated 'absolutely no chance' and wandered off for a cigarette.



▲ *Good times in Phuket!*

Even in party mode, the remaining BC boys, had too much in the tank, and ran their opponents ragged. It did help as they had all been out together the night before and one of Phuket's better players didn't even make the match. Shame as his match was for a place on the boat the next day. All in all, a great four days away, with everyone having the time of their lives with plenty of singing. The trip did start and introduce the squash sections new song, "Snoop John B", by the beach boys. The words were altered somewhat to include a more Thai theme and can occasionally be heard coming from the squash courts after a mix-in. It is a work in progress so bear with us while it's perfected! Nick survived the

trip and even managed to put on a party at the club a week later, despite a near on cyclone. Plenty of drinks (and singing) saw the majority of the section turn up and enforce the sections closeness and friendship. Happy Birthday Nick, try make fifty!



▲ *Happy Birthday Nick!*

Dawee Cup

The last month has seen a myriad of events and tours throughout the section. We've seen a number of new players join to both mix-ins and the leagues. Gonzalez has thrown in some South American fire to the section and we've even enticed a few Canadians off the back-field hockey pitch to come drink beers with us too! The premier event of the last month saw the British Club contest the Dawee Cup against the RBSC, we think, for the first time since 1994. There was a lot of contact with the Club's historian and Chairman as to both the location of the cup and its history. After a couple of meetings, 19 emails, and some looking into the club records, no one had a clue. We were aware though that typically the RBSC had much the stronger side, however, loaded with youthful enthusiasm, the BC side were well up for bringing the cup home.

SPORTS

If it weren't for Nick's close contacts on the committee, Gonzalez was primed to take his slot in the first string, however, a few Budweisers sent to the Evans' account made sure Nick snuck into the side. All to no avail however, as Nick's opponent decided his knee was injured on viewing of his opponent for the evening. Wouldn't have been so bad, however, the gentleman concerned had his rackets strapped across his shoulder and was in full kit. Both Ronnie and Nick had also committed to no pre match Chang's so the non-match had Nick doubly annoyed. BC 1-0 up, without a ball being boasted! The remaining matches saw some very good players from the RBSC narrowly losing time after time to their BC opponents. Former club number one, Ja, playing at eight, showed the strength and depth of our side. Unfortunately for Steven, a decision was made by the skipper for him to face off against former Thai national player Win, and for our former number 1 player, Lob, to take an easier match at 2. Fair to say Steven took one for the team and managed at least three points total against an opponent who barely looked like he was trying. Our current number one player, Brad, was the only other loser, facing an opponent who must have been Marvyn's prodigy. Lobbing

serves to both forehand and back hand saw the American's temper flare and some mid game tactic talks with Ronnie. He fought back to narrowly lose 3-2.

In other matches, "Ronnie played the best squash I've seen him play" according to Nick, "primed and focused"! He was the only player to lose against Chiang Mai in our previous match, so he knew to have his A game on. Marc S. was ruthless, Keilic was his usual excellent self, and Da took her unbeaten record for the side further, with a convincing 3-0 win. With Lob winning his match-up, an 8-2 win saw a few beers consumed by the usual suspects with some great camaraderie between the two teams. Special mention to Ronnie, as without him, this great tradition wouldn't have been rekindled. We agreed that we must compete for the trophy, annually, moving forward. Next year will be the 50th anniversary for the Dawee Cup!

Santa's v Elves:

The Xmas bash is a way to let our hair down, relax, play some average squash, and drink to excess. As that is no different to a Saturday mix-in, the powers that be add in a theme



element which separates this annual event. The theme is Santa's in red v Elves in green. There are some extremely complicated rules involving multiple players which no one gets apart from event organiser, Mr. Sayer.

Members are asked to go all out with their costumes. People were given at least 48 hours' notice, to which side they would be representing, and you would have thought that was enough time to make some effort. Alas no. Literally no one made a half decent attempt. In continuation of the section's philosophy, no one seemed to care. Multiple drinks were had, some squash was played, and the Santa's (Nick's team) won by the biggest margin in the history of squash. We all made it across to the main house for annual prize giving where some of the more popular members were then invited to Nick Mellor's 60th. Nick Mellor is a long time BC member and can now be found playing the gentler version of squash, racquetball. Happy Birthday Nick Mellor!



▲ Dawee Champions!



Ben Eastwell

Cricket Hardballs



▲ *Back to it in Pattaya*

Happy new year!

An action-packed month closed out 2020 as the season kicked into gear with a well fought 6s tournament in Chiang Mai and the cricket section's first 3 games in their league campaign before some festivities and a well-earned break. The January calendar will see the newly built 'Pattana Golf Club & Resort' host its first tournament, before BC face up to a couple more opponents in the Bangkok Cricket League and celebrate last season's triumphs at the annual awards night on Saturday 16th January.

Group Stage Standings

Team	P	W	L	T/NR	B	Pts	NRR (bat)
Siam CC Parrots	3	3	0	0	2	14	4.616
British Club	3	3	0	0	1	13	3.462
Pattaya CC	3	2	0	1	3	13	3.786
Lamphun	3	2	0	1	2	12	4.578
Bangtao	3	2	1	0	3	11	3.332
Rugby School Vipers	3	2	1	0	3	11	1.319
Shrewsbury School	3	2	1	0	2	10	2.209
Floggers & Robbers	3	1	2	0	3	7	-0.851
The Bellringers	3	1	2	0	2	6	-0.148
Lanna CC	3	1	2	0	1	5	-0.046
Lord of the Beers	3	1	2	0	0	4	-4.052
CMSCA	3	0	3	0	2	2	-3.259
Rugby School Cobras	3	0	3	0	0	0	-5.809
Koh Chang	3	0	3	1	0	0	-7.933

▲ *Chiang Mai sixes group table*

Chiang Mai 6s Tournament 27-29 November



▲ *3rd place in Chiang Mai 6s*

As COVID put a stop to the long run of annual Chiang Mai international sixes tournaments, the organisers and Chiang Mai Gymkhana club were not deterred - pulling together a brilliant competition at the end of November, made up of 14 domestic sides. The British Club up against local outfits and other visiting teams from Phuket, Pattaya, Koh Chang and Bangkok.

Drawn one of Chiang Mai's Thai youth teams first up on Friday afternoon, BC looked to set the tone for the weekend with a 12 run win against CMSCA in their first of 3, five-over group games. A golden duck from Sunil was resurrected by a quick 23 from Dan and a steady partnership from Nadeem and Ben, before a disciplined fielding effort kept the below-par target (61) out of reach.

A lunchtime start on Saturday left plenty of time to sleep off the opening party ahead of the 2nd round against Lord of the Beers. The extra



▲ *3rd place in Chiang Mai 6s*

SPORTS



▲ Strong BC start

rest seemed to pay off as Sunil and Dan set the field alight; both blitzing to retirement scores and what turned out to be the highest total of the weekend (86). A mammoth 47 run victory secured a bonus point and high spirits going into the final group game against Rugby School Vipers who were also enjoying a good start. Bowling to an ex-pro, Pramodh turned up the pace to the Vipers' secret weapon before Denz stemmed any further damage with an important wicket in his over. Chasing 58, BC took it to a nail-biting last over – another hasty retirement from Dan propped up the innings which was eventually determined by a dramatically gifted wide which ran away to the fence to secure a second place tournament finish and a Cup semi-final against a strong Pattaya side the next day.

A couple of complimentary bloody marys kicked off the last day of the tournament and the road to the final, though a dodgy no-ball call was to be the thorn in the side which left BC's run machine on 0; though Sunil, Denz and Pramodh managed to push the team on to a defendable 49 runs. A 10-ball 32 from Pattaya's opener looked to seal the win before a timely double wicket maiden from Dan left a requirement of 6 from Ben's over. Pattaya won with 5 balls remaining...A blurry playoff match and consolation win against Siam Parrots for 3rd place closed out a fantastic weekend, which saw Lamphun's talented all Thai team take the cup.

BC V Bangkok Strikers Sunday 6th December

The first of 10 league games was drawn against Bangkok Strikers, relegated from the A division the season prior. A slow outfield on a breezy morning in Pattaya set the stage for the Strikers who opted to bat first and survived 2 caught and bowled chances put down by Dilip (1-15, 5 overs), who managed to put pressure on early in swinging conditions. Sunish (1-39, 5 overs) took the first wicket of the morning assisted by a fine catch in the deep from Mossy which put BC on track for a tidy start, with Strikers restricted to 86-2 at drinks. But an explosive last ten in which the opposition ran hard on a lethargic field saw 98 added to their total – wickets from Rahul (1-30, 4 overs) and Ed (2-30, 5 overs) in vain as BC faced the tough task of chasing 184 to win. Some tight bowling and a frustratingly slow outfield eventually resulted in BC falling 39 runs short of the target, lacking anyone who pushed on to a match-winning performance.

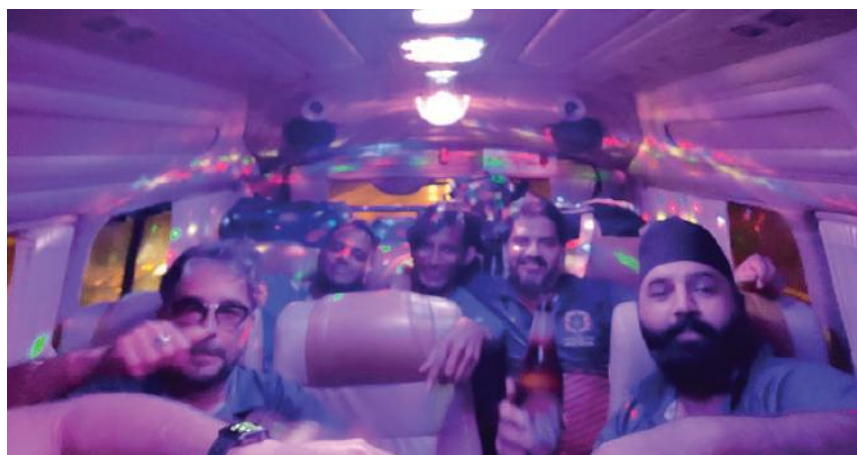
BC V Bangkok Cricket Club Saturday 12th December

Following a week to analyse the opening fixture, British club were held to a second successive defeat in



▲ Talal on the money V BCC

Pattaya – again failing to chase down the opposition total and falling just 9 runs short of the target after being put in to field first. BCC's top 3 were all sent packing by an on-form Dilip and some handy fielding contributions from Pramodh and Mak. though an expensive 20th over spoiled some otherwise impressive figures (3-44, 5 overs) and unraveled a notably improved team effort to stem the flow of runs. A recovery came in the form of a crucial run out which preceded a very tidy spell of death bowling from Pramodh (1-23, 5 overs) and Talal (2-27, 5 overs) to leave Bangkok CC on 156-9. A sluggish start from BC in reply made it difficult to get on top of the run rate and despite a well fought 43 from Rahul and valiant effort in the middle order, the chasing side ran out of balls on 147-7.



▲ Travel back in style



British Club Golf

The British Club Bangkok, Golf Section Championship

The Golf Section Championships 2020 were held at Banyan Golf Club in Hua Hin over two days in November. The course, one of the finest in Thailand, was in fabulous condition. Banyan always provides a stern test of golf and it was even more challenging this year thanks to a strong wind, most noticeably on the first day. 34 golfers took up the gauntlet, enjoying or enduring two rounds, depending on their fortune, and a relaxing evening meal in Hua Hin in between.

Being a test of the best golfer the annual championship is a gross Strokeplay competition, with a net competition also being played, for both the ladies' and the men's titles.

Randall Coleman prevailed in the Gross Championship, to win the coveted title of Club Champion for the men's section, with Karen Holloway winning the title for the ladies' section. Randall played a superb second round to take the Champion-

ship away from overnight leader Jon Standen with Peter Clark being the runner up. The lead changed several times throughout the second round before Randall pulled clear following superb birdies on the 14th and 15th. In the Ladies' Gross Championship, with Karen Holloway having taken the top prize with a formidable display of length and accuracy and best overall gross score it was for namesake Karen (Carter) to finish runner up.

In the ladies' net championship, Nina Jurathavee was a convincing winner with Yurachtr Brook the runner up. While for the men, Jon Standen, having been knocked off the top spot in the Gross competition by Randall, won the net championship with Neil Davis, Club Captain, in second.

The daily prizes went to Helena Kim on Saturday and Gordon Milne on Sunday.

Thanks go to the British Club Golf Section Committee for organizing the weekend, with particular mention to Karen Carter for making the arrangements with the course and for the evening meal at Cool Breeze on the Saturday, and to all members attending for making it so enjoyable,

with as many laughs off the course as on it. Given how tough the course played, it would probably be fairer to say, many more laughs were had off the course, after the golf.



▲ Best net lady - Nina Jurathavee



▲ Best net man - Jon Standen



▲ The final four on Sunday – Jon, Randall, Peter and Graham. Hey Graham, how come your name's not on the winners list?



▲ Our Ladies Champion 2020 – Karen Holloway



▲ The best man... - Randall Coleman

SPORTS



▲ *Handing back the bell.*

THE SUAL BELL – A Feeling of Déjà Vu

Those of you who played in the match – or have read the article in last month's Outpost magazine – will be aware of our rather disappointing result in the match against the Wanderers this year, where we handed back to them the Magpie Putter after our victory over them in 2019.

On the 22nd November we played the GCL – the Golfers' Cocktail Lounge in our annual match with them for the trophy known as the SUAL Bell.

Unfortunately there was a distinct sense of déjà vu about the day, when again at the end of the match we handed back to them the trophy. Again we played at Royal Latkrabang. Again we lost big time.

We did at least have one victorious pair this time. Well done to Frank Fawkes and Varghese Rose for their win. The rest of us – Not so good.

But as was said last month every game was fought hard and played in good spirit and despite the result it was an enjoyable match.

Thanks to the organisers and thanks to all who competed, the match coming after a lot of golf played over the last two months. Perhaps that had something to do with the result? Who knows?

But next year it will be a change of venue for both matches and maybe that will make all the difference. Let's hope so, but again, who knows? We shall just have to wait and see.

The match doubled up as our November stableford game, and in that – not surprisingly given the match result – victory went to Varghese Rose. Well played Varghese.

The November Medal

Rounding off the aforementioned busy golfing month was our November Medal, played on the 29th, again at Royal Latkrabang. Continuing his fine form from the match against the GCL, victory in group A went to Frank Fawkes, with an excellent nett 66 (off a gross 79). Great play Frank and surely a cut in handicap coming up.

In group B the winner, with an as nearly excellent nett 69, was Penny Booth, in what may have been her first medal with us after getting her handicap. Fantastic!

In December we have just one game – also our Medal – to round out the year after which we will know who all our annual winners are. But you won't find out until February, unless you come and play on the day. Am sure there are a lot more golfers who are members of the Club than are in the Golf Section – so why not come and join us?

Apologies to the winners that no photos, due to lack of space.

STOP PRESS – December Medal results

The December Medal, our last game of the year, was played on Sunday 13th December, the day before the deadline for submission of articles for the Outpost magazine. Therefore, I trust the reader will excuse this short write up giving the results, so as to get them in in time for inclusion in the January edition.

The game, as always for the medal, was played at the Royal Golf & Country Club Latkrabang. A good field of 22 players turned out for this last game, in hot but hazy conditions. We had one new member join us – welcome Anita Law – and were joined by Harry Smith, just 'released' from quarantine that morning. How's that for dedication to the game, although he suffered from not having yet acclimatised to the heat. Not that that stopped him smacking a huge drive down the 14th fairway to take the long drive prize.

Anyway, this report was supposed to be short so on with the main results.

Winner in group A (handicaps of 16 and below) was Ian Brewis on a fine nett 68. Bad luck to Peter Clark, who also had a great nett score of 68 but lost out on countback. In group B (handicaps of 17 and above) David Burton took the honours with a nett 71 and runners up both with nett 75 were Nina Jaruthavee and Stephen Taylor.

We shall have to wait and see whether these fine results have altered the outcome of our various annual competitions.

Looking forward to seeing lots of players at our next game, next year; our annual 3 clubs and a putter competition.

Group A medal winner Ian Brewis

Group B medal winner David Burton

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-Left hand opening batsman
-Leg spin bowler
-Level 1 cricket coaching qualification
-BED in Physical Education

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Sunday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th November (minimum 4 kids)
200 BAHT-MEMBERS | 250 BAHT-NON MEMBERS

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Friday 6th, 13rd, 20th and 27th November (minimum 4 kids)
300 BAHT-MEMBERS | 350 BAHT-NON MEMBERS

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Date: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th November

Group 1: 9.00am - 9.30am	10 to 14 advanced class
Group 2: 9.30am - 10.00am	4 years old to 5 years old
Group 3: 10.00am - 10.30am	5 years old to 6 years old
Group 4: 10.30am - 11.00am	7 years old to 10 years old

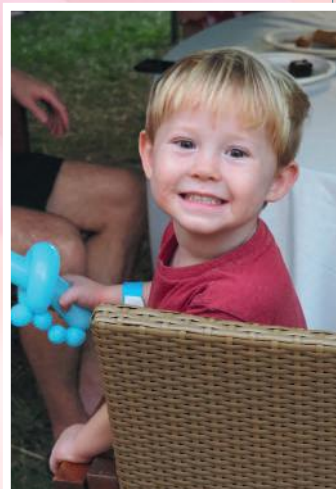
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The Kids Christmas Party

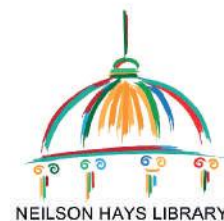




Christmas Day



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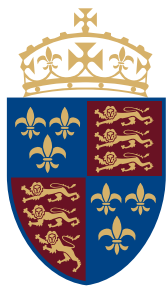
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