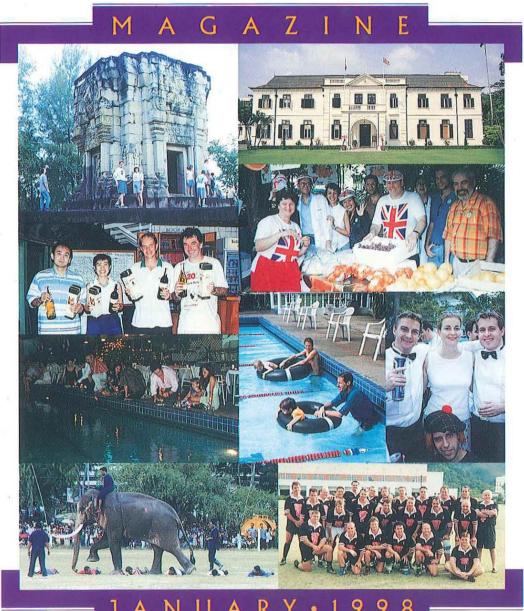
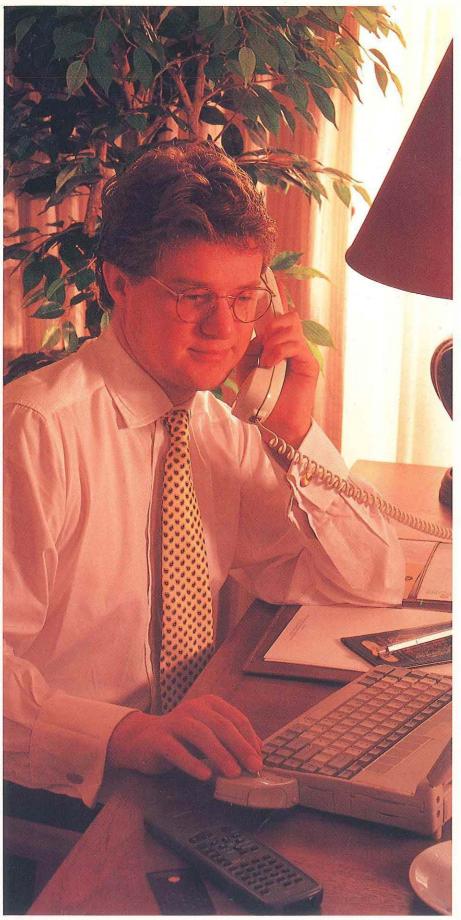


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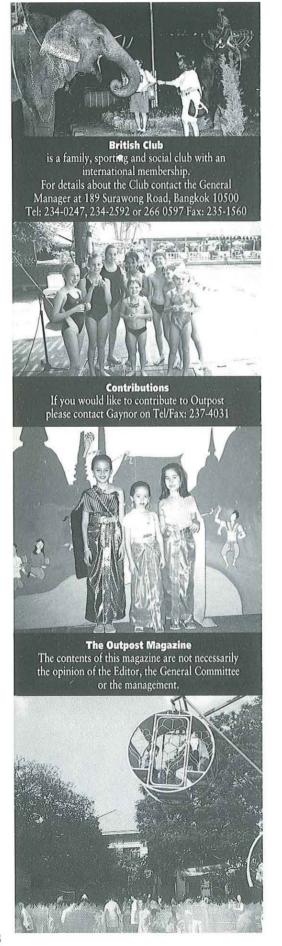
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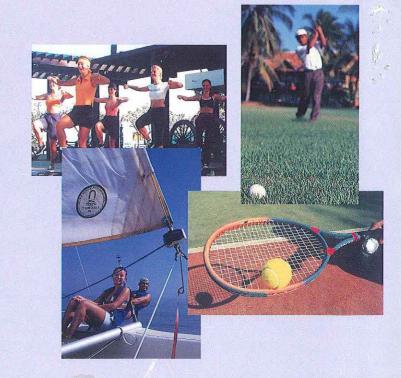
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#### From the Editor

velcome to 1998; hope it's a good one for you and your family. January is always billed as a wind-down month, and certainly by comparison to the number of special events in November and December it is, but everyone's back from their holidays and keen to throw themselves into all the activities and facilities available at the Club. And that benefits both you and the Club, especially in this difficult climate of needing to maintain revenue, so use it or lose it.

One excellent piece of news is that Ploenchit Fair appears to have made more money than last year despite the gloomy forecasts which abounded in Bangkok in October and early November, so Carolyn Tarrant has been vindicated yet again in tearing her hair out eliciting support from the corporate community and Joe Public. A full report in this issue, though at the time of writing some of the costs were outstanding so a final figure had yet to be determined, but it's great news for the many Thai charities selected by the UKCTC.

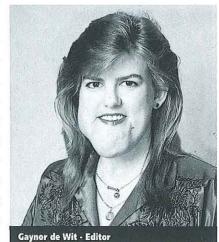
The elephantine article in this issue about the annual round-up in Surin in November is partly a result of my shutterbug over-enthusiasm but also as this trip needs a bit of a promo as it's quite an event. Tiring, yes, not only because of the amount of oxygen we Bangkokians — for whom air is normally 90% composed of greenhouse gases — breathed in but also it's a long day for those of us who don't sleep well on overnight trains. Mind you, it's not only me who takes too many photos: I have now heard from two people that they have vowed not to take any more pictures of elephants for a year as they have taken enough to fill a fairly hefty album!

()

With all the photos I took I am presently considering putting together an album of Surin photos at Reception this month, from which copies could be ordered for those who

ran out of film(!), so keep your eyes peeled.

And it was while the intrepid Surin tour group were heading up north on the Friday night that another crowdenjoyed a night of traditional — and some not so traditional — ceremony and entertainment at the Loy Krathong evening at the Club. This time the "show" was given



by the BC staff themselves, who worked hard to get not only the dancing but also the costumes right... and then there was that alternative best-dressed lady competition! The nearest I got to Loy Krathong was watching dozens of people floating their krathongs or paddling a mini-barge while clapping and singing on Krung Kasem klong running alongside Hua Lumphong station, buying some khanom from the impromptu market there and watching some traditional dancing on a makeshift stage nearby.

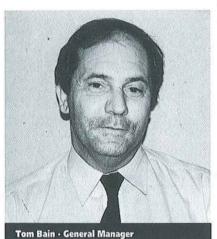
There's also a good turn-out from the sports sections in this month's Outpost; I don't know what has prompted this outburst but long may it continue!

Happy New Year!

Gaynor de Wit Editor

#### From the Manager

very happy New Year to all Club members and their families from all of the Club staff. January is the time for staff to take stock after



the busy months of October, November and December. There has been a considerable amount of wear and tear of the Club's facilities during this busy period and it's now time to make sure that everything is patched up.

As reported in management news last month a new policy for use of Club no-

tice boards has been adopted by the General Committee. This is primarily to ensure that ads are for a personal nature only and that commercial advertising is not acceptable. The policy is outlined in detail later in this issue. The Chairman's report mentions the appointment of Chirachada Suwanawong to the newly created position of Membership Sales

and Marketing Manager. The role of this position is to ensure that Club memberships are actively "sold" to the many eligible people living in Thailand. I wish Chirachada success in her new position both for her sake and the good fortune of the Club.

Also, Lisa Fitzpatrick's expertise in organising Club events will be put to better use next year. A slight change in Lisa's job description will see her being able to devote more of her time to the administration of sport and recreation activities and a little less time being directly involved in coaching (she will still be doing some coaching!). To fill the gap caused by this change some tennis coaching will be done by Sportathlon on a contract basis. I'm sure these changes will be beneficial to Club members.

1

Tom Bain General Manager

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#### **Management News**



#### embership Sales & Marketing Manager

Khun Chirachada Suwanawong has been appointed to the newly created position of Membership Sales and Marketing Manager. Chirachada (Goi) is no stranger to Club members as she has been at the Club for four years and her previous position was Catering Manager. Her new role will be to actively promote membership sales so that the Club's membership numbers can be increased.

#### **Sport and Recreation Coordinator**

Lisa Fitzpatrick's job description has been amended to allow her to devote more time to the coordination and organisation of sporting and recreational activities and less on direct coaching. The coaching shortfall will be filled by hiring qualified coaches from Sportathlon and elsewhere.

#### **Staff Party**

Due to the economic situation facing the country (and the Club) it has been decided not to hold the normal staff party this year. However, all staff will be given an extra day off to compensate for this.

#### **Club Waintenance**

With all the heavy use over the past few months the grass has died off. In addition, the Club house paintwork needs refreshing. During the next couple of months the Club staff will take a breath from the hectic schedule of functions and ensure the general maintenance of the premises is up to scratch.

#### **BC Shirts**

NOW ON SALE at the Fitness Centre - come and try them on for size. Also on sale are BC sports caps, headbands and a new style of squash goggle from the US.

#### **Coaching Courses**

For tennis and swimming, coaching will recommence on the 9th and 10th of January 1998 respectively. Application forms for the new courses are available in the Fitness Centre.

#### **Touch Rugby - Ladies**

For all those ladies requiring a challenging team field sport, there will be a meeting on Thursday 15th January (time TBA, see notice boards) in the Churchill Bar to start a Touch Rugby section at the Club. All those interested are encouraged to attend to discuss the game and make plans for training, etc.

#### Aerobics/Aqua Aerobics

Classes will recommence from Monday 5th January 1998. Aerobics classes run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30am. Aqua aerobics is on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at **10.30am**. Tickets for these classes can be purchased from the Fitness Centre.

#### **Free Fitness Membership**

Anyone who joins the Fitness Centre in January will receive their first month free of charge - no excuses for not starting those New Year Resolution promises Now!

#### **Swimming Section**

The meeting and election of committee members will take place on Saturday 10th January at 2pm in the Churchill Bar. All swimming, water polo and general aquatic enthusiasts are encouraged to attend. Let's start making waves!!

#### **GM's Leave**

I will be on leave from 6th to 17th January. During that time please refer all queries to Barry Osborne or any of the management staff.

#### The Notice Boards - The Rules

The following points have been laid down by the General Committee regarding the dos and don'ts about the general notice boards in the corridor outside the Churchill Bar:

- The original intention of the boards was to assist members (for example, those arriving
  or leaving the country) to buy/sell personal belongings or to seek/advise on house staff, etc.
  Notices with the aim of profit-making are not allowed, such as adverts for the rental of
  accommodation, as there are ample commercial concerns outside the Club to deal with
  such matters.
- Members wishing to use the notice boards <u>must</u> obtain the GM's approval, and their advert should not be placed on the notice board without the GM's initials and date of approval. A lock has been installed on the glass sliding doors covering the notice boards to ensure this rule is applied.
- Non-profit organisations, where a reasonable number of their members are also BC
  members, should be allowed to use the boards subject to the GM's approval. Examples
  allowed include the British Women's Group and the Ploenchit Fair; with other such
  organisations considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Size of notices: it will be mandatory for members to use the new standard form for notices, which has enough space for one photograph, to avoid some of the over-sized notices presently displayed. Exceptions shall be made for large circulation notices by non-profit making organisations.
- Where an advert does not fall easily into any of the above categories, the GM shall refer the advert to the General Committee for a final decision.
- Anyone wishing to advertise in the Outpost magazine must contact the publishers, The Creative Partnership, directly.



#### Phil and Ben

It is hard to categorise the 1997 season for the British Club Rugby Section as two tragic events off the field have completely overshad-



Post-match BC & Phuket Gazette's Vagabonds

owed all else. The untimely death of Phil Russell in England and the shocking injuries suffered by Ben Knowles in a car crash in Bangkok have deeply saddened us all. Winning and losing pales into insignificance as we begin to realise how fortunate we are just to be able to play, to enjoy good health; things we often take for granted.

Phil Russell (aka "Benny") played for the British Club for approaching four years before returning to England late in 1996. Phil made a very significant contribution to the club as a player, as a fixture in the bar, as a friendly face for newcomers to the Club and as a great person. Phil was genuinely warm, kind and generous and will be remembered most fondly by us all. As a mark of respect to Phil, the British Club's annual fixture with the Phuket Vagabonds will henceforth be played for "The Phil Russell Memorial Trophy".

Although saddened by Phil's death, we are heartened by the rapid and amazing recovery Ben Knowles is making. It would be by no means an exaggeration to say that many feared for Ben's life in the early days following his accident, but excellent medical care and

Ben's own strength of character have resulted in dramatic improvements. Ben has now returned to the UK to be near his family and appropriate recuperation facilities. Throughout this ordeal, Ben has exhibited unbelievable determination and dignity, meeting pain with humour, despair with hopes for the future. Our prayers remain with Ben and we look forward to welcoming him back to Bangkok.

#### **Phuket Tour**

The King's Birthday weekend at the beginning of December witnessed the British Club visit Phuket for the second year in succession. Patrick and the Vagabonds again proved to be excellent hosts, ensuring that the team never went hungry or thirsty.

Twenty five smartly dressed gentlemen in pink and black met at the airport on the Thursday afternoon for some Boddingtons kindly supplied by Chris Jones. Partly owing to his diminutive stature, nobody noticed that Alan Lovell had not yet arrived and the team left without him. Hardy little fellow that he is, though, Alan made it on a later flight, once a grown up could be found to supervise him. Patrick and other Vagabonds did their utmost to put the BC off their game by greeting us with Chang beer at the airport and providing a steady flow of various concoctions at the Dive Inn, a charming hotel-cum-bar in Patong. The BC boys were then required to show their





faces and drink even more at the numerous outfits who sponsor the Vagabonds. Fortunately, one or two sold food.

Friday began horribly with a few beers by the pool. Incredibly, Big Matt succeeded in persuading 10 or so normally responsible people to go bungee jumping. Also incredibly, these not-so-sober individuals were allowed to jump, although it must be noted that our resident hard man prop forward, Mr Jon Prichard, declined. Tour Leader Bruce Hill did not attend, however, as he was scouring Phuket's jails looking for Trevor Day, Angus Kerr and Giles, who sent a bogus plea for help to our increasingly gullible Bruce.

The evening provided a sight to behold as Patrick provided Trevor with a horrible array of spirits in an attempt to silence him for the night. Silence him it did, but not quick enough for some people, who had to endure one of the worst renditions of "Father Abraham" possible. Suffice to say Trevor was in no position to tell left from right - an integral part of the song.

Saturday was the big game day and the BC and the Vagabonds assembled rather gingerly at Dulwich International College. Upon learning that Rod Kerr was responsible for building the place, no one stood too near any walls, although it must be said that the school looks a treat.

The first 15 minutes saw the BC notch up 3 quick tries from Glen Sloper (2) and Nigel Wixcey, but then the exertions of the past 2 days began to take their toll and there was a noticeable decline in performance. Yet as the Vagabonds also began to tire, the BC added four more tries with three scored by Andy Davies and one more by Glen Sloper, Rod Kerr and others, colluded to ensure that both



Andy and Glen scored hat-tricks to ensure a hefty punishment in the bar. Other memorable moments included Vince Swift flying through the lineout (the wrong way), JP making an appalling impression of a scrum half, Matt Minich crushing people, Dickey Barton ambling in bare feet and Tim Grayson successfully catching a ball. At the final whistle, the BC had secured the Phil Russell Memorial Trophy by 37 points to nil.

Post-match entertainment involved a spectacle even more bizarre than a British Club victory. The England-New Zealand match on at the Dive Inn sent many Englishmen into shock as they witnessed their compatriots, who had been useless for years, score three quick tries against the world's most feared side. Peter "Doc" Smedley was forced to go home by the ordeal, convinced that a strange tropical disease was playing tricks with his eyes. The non-English contingent of Rod Kerr, Angus







Kerr, Andy Davies, Peter "Skippy" (?) Young, Prote, Marco and Nigel Wixcey had a miserable evening as they had hoped to applaud yet another blackwash of the poms.

Following the match, Patrick and Andy held court and punished all and sundry with huge quantities of yet more beer. Highlights include little Lamby wrestling with Matt Minich and Alec Stewart sporting nothing but underpants and a blond wig. Yes, he did receive numerous offers by burly males and the local Phuket katoey fraternity, which he is still considering. By Sunday, fewer and fewer began to surface for breakfast and, although the spams were crazy enough to play golf, most struggled to make it before the 4.00pm court session. Chaired by a ruthless Andy Davies with a passionate and unscrupulous prosecutor in Jon Prichard and an appropriately appalling defence in Simon Dakers (don't worry, we've got this in the bag), no one stood the remotest chance of being found anything but horribly guilty. By the end the bar was in an awful mess with Trevor, Giles, Patrick and Angus eating half watermelons in their birthday suits, rebelling to splatter the court with the messy red fruit.

Bruce again did well to lead the boys to the airport on time and some rather wearier individuals crept home to Bangkok. A big hand to Bruce for yet another splendid job.

#### 1998

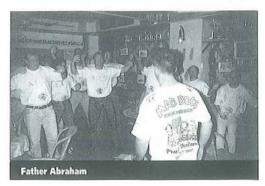
With just a few weeks to draw breath, the new year beckons and efforts are already under way to prepare for the mammoth tour of Manila and Hong Kong in March, which takes in the Manila Tens, the Hong Kong Tens and the Hong Kong Sevens.

Training will be stepped up and a grueling "Rayong Retreat" training weekend will be held in February. A variety of socials and fund raisers are also planned to assist in meeting some of the costs of the tour.

Those new to Bangkok will be warmly welcomed into the Club and anyone interested should contact any of the committee members listed below.

#### Andy "Judge" Davies

Position	Tel		
Chairman	712 1650		
1st XV	691 9880		
Captain			
1st XV Vice	583 5401		
Captain			
Fixtures	518 1000		
Secretary	259 3150		
Membership.	679 1434		
Baa Baa's	652 3000		
Captain			
Treasurer	262 6062		
	Chairman 1st XV Captain 1st XV Vice Captain Fixtures Secretary Membership Baa Baa's Captain		





#### Avoiding the Men's Wooden Spoon

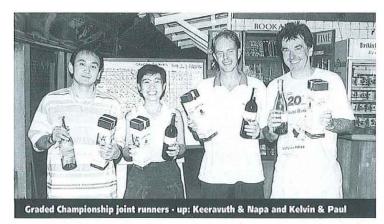
#### Bangkok Men's Inter-Club Tournament

22nd/23rd November 1997

Once again the annual Bangkok Inter-Club Men's Doubles Tennis Tournament has come and gone and as usual the BC team had more than its fair share of thrills and spills. This year our expectations were unusually high as unlike previous years, when we have struggled even to assemble a full team, we seemed to have a full house of exceptionally talented players who were apparently ready and willing to turn out for the team. That should have been warning enough but your intrepid Captain ever the supreme optimist, was lulled into what proved to be an entirely false feeling of confidence. The venue this year was the RBSC who were hosting the whole evnt and as usual there were six participating teams: RBSC, Polo, Silom, Navy, Japanese and BC. Each team consisted of 5 pairs split into age groups of 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+ and 55+. The event took place over the two days of Saturday and Sunday 22/23 November on the RBSC grass courts (which made a nice change from the more usual cement although some of our players found it rather hard to adapt to the comparatively slow surface), and wound up with a banquet lunch and prize-giving at around 1pm on Sunday, immediately after the last match had been played.

Our team consisted of all our top ladder players with one additional heavyweight in the form of Philip Brophy, an ex-Australian State player and in fact the best player of the bunch though few have seen him play at the BC. BC pairs in descending order of age were: Bruce & Kamol, Roger & Dick, Bernie & Ken, James & Philip and Richard & Pat. At least, that was the plan.

As there was some reluctance to turn up early due to some team members spending the



previous night cavorting with the "Kilts", your Captain in his wisdom, after scnning the preliminary playing schedule, deemed it possible for the younger members to delay their appearance until the programmed start time for those age groups to around 1pm. Foolish in the extreme, I hear you say, and so it proved to be as, no sooner than we had arrived at 8am the official start time when the whole schedule was changed and our still somnambulant players were required to appear on court within the hour.

Frantic phone calls all round rescued one pair but James, Philip and Richard failed to make the new time frame so makeshift pairings had to be cobbled together. This was never going to be good enough to defeat RBSC against whom we were drawn in the first round and so we were duly obliterated 5-0. Not an impressive start for what on paper was the best team we have probably ever put forward.

The afternoon session proved to be even more fraught with the complete failure of Philip to show even though we were in touch with him on his mobile up to within half an hour of his start time. His "moby" simply went off the air at that point and no one has heard from him since!! A very bad case of 'TIT'.

Desperate calls to our reserve player, Khun Vorathep, failed to locate him and so once





more we were a player short. Navy, our next opponent, kindly allowed us to play one player twice but even this failed to turn the tide of misfortune and we duly lost again 4-1; Kamol and your Captain being the only winners at 8-2.

Apart from the above catalogue of accidents, it was clear to all of us that Dick Blackmore was rapidly becoming semi-comatose due to the sudden onset of galloping sinusitis and there was absolutely no sense in expecting him to turn out for us the following day. Thus excused, Dick just managed to drag himself to the BC before collapsing into the sala sofas, where we found him completely comatose some 4 hours later.

What a day of disasters and if you have ever wondered why there is so little hair on my head, well, now you have the answer!!

After all that, things could only get better and indeed they did.

In spite of best overnight endeavours with the "moby", Sunday once again saw us turning out with one player short, even though our reserve player Khun Vorathep was now safely on board. Fortunately our opponents, the Japanese Club, were prepared to let me play twice and I duly played in the 50 and 55 & over age groups as there was virtually no other alternative.

We were all pretty determined to avert the impending whitewash that only a clear-cut victory could prevent and this resulted in a much better performance by the whole team. This time we achieved a pretty decisive victory, winning by the comfortable margin of 4-1; your Captain and Kamol being the only losers due in the main to yours truly having already burnt himself out immedately beforehand when accomplishing a win of 8-2 partnering Roger in the 50 & overs.

In this match at least, outstanding wins were achieved by Bernie & Ken at 8-6, James & Pat at 8-4 and Richard & Vorathep at 8-4, this last win being particularly commendable as our pair were playing down in the hottest 35 & over age group.

As always our hosts RBSC provided an excellent lunch with as much as you could eat of the most delicious range of Thai delicacies. Thus fortified and after suitably short speeches all round, your team retreated once more to the BC, there to wonder once again what we have to do make our mark in any of the three annual inter-Club tournaments.

For your interest the final team placings were: 1st: Silom, 2nd: Polo Club, 3rd: RBSC, 4th: Navy, 5th: British Club, 6th: Japanese Club In fact, 5th position for the BC does represent a one-place improvement on last year when we qualified for the "wooden spoon".

#### Bruce "over 55" Gordon





#### **Graded Championship**

#### Sunday 16th November

The Graded Championship this year was a combination of the weekend tournament seen a couple of years ago and a traditional second-Sunday tournament (de facto semi-abolished in March). Starting early on a Sunday morning, it turns out I was the only twit who had stepped off the overnight train from Surin (for the heffalump round-up), a mere couple of hours before appearing on court, which might explain my level of play-for which I apologise profusely to my long-suffering partner David Henton. However, at least he got a bottle of wine out of it!

There were some intriguing partnerships in the line-up, including joint runners-up Paul Williams and Kelvin Moffatt... no prizes for guessing who wore the skirt! And many, many, many matches were played, so many so that nearly-rans Kate Henton and partner David Blowers forfeited their last match against hubby David Hand yours truly, at least allowing us the grace of avoiding total whitewash!

Winners with 8 wins to 1 loss were Vorathep and Lisa, who won free nights at Club Aldiana Siam near Hua Hin, and there was a close second for the bottles of wine between the hermaphrodite Paul and Kelvin and Keeravut and Napa. The less said about the wooden spooners the better...

A long, tiring day, hot and fairly humid for winter, but good fun and lots of prizes kindly donated by **The Creative Partnership.** It'll be interesting to see how this tournament shapes up next year.

#### **Committee Witterings**

• By the time you receive this you should have signed up for the Club Championships starting in January and ending in early March.



Anticipate some cracking tennis in the coming months. The committee in all their wisdom have decided to continue with the January/February league despite keen competition for the courts, so also anticipate complete mayhem in the bookings stakes until late February.

- With the results of the Men's Inter-Club Tourney still ringing in our ears despite a strong team, we have decided to withdraw from the Ladies tournament due to be held in February.
- Moans abound still from some about the lighting on court 3 amongst others; hopefully we'll clarify the position of what lights are how old and when they were last replaced sometime soon.

Otherwise, it only remains for me to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope 1998 brings with it that "glorious" forehand (to quote Dan Mascall) or, at least, a couple of serves that go in.

Lotsaluv Me



#### The Whisky Lured Them Out

wo competitions were played this month. With no sign of the cool season, the sun umbrellas stayed up, the lotion was slapped



on and copious amounts of Singha beer continued to be drunk between holes - bring on the scuba section to go looking for lost balls.

#### **Diplomatic Incident**

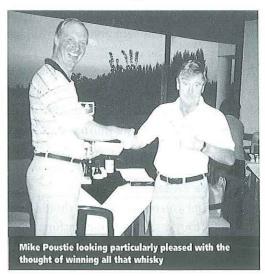
The match against the British Embassy was rearranged at short notice to avoid clashing with Armistice Day. Unfortunately the new date clashed with the Surin elephant roundup, Loy Krathong and shopping trips to Hong Kong. The turnout was low and the British Club had to beg some players from the Embassy. As a result the British Embassy won the British Club Cup in fine style - you would think that it would be more diplomatic to let us win our own cup. However, face was saved with British Club members winning both individual prizes. Congratulations to Mark Verheyen, winner of the under 18 handicap prize with 37 points and Gareth Sampson, winner of the over 18 handicap prize with 46 outstanding points. In spite of the low turnout, it was a day of friendly golf followed by an excellent barbecue at the Embassy Social Club.

#### **Whisky Galore**

For some reason whisky draws out players hitherto not seen on the fairways all year round. Roy Barrett dusted off his clubs to win the under 18 handicap section of our **Johnnie Walker** quarterly medal held at the Royal Golf and Country Club on 23rd November. Winner of the 30 and over handicap section was Mike Poustie (he must need a new trophy cabinet). However, accolades must go to Greg Lambert who was truly inspired by the thought of all that golden liquid: Greg shot a net score of 60 - a club record.

#### **Farewell to the Lamberts**

It was Greg and Lauren Lambert's last match with the British Club as they have returned to Australia. They both had a memorable day of golf. Lauren was runner up in her section and also won the ladies longest drive. In addition





to winning his medal section, Greg won the men's longest drive and nearest the pin. They left the club laden with prizes and thought of turning pro when they got back home. The Lamberts will be sadly missed as they have not only turned out for every game but also contributed to the organisation of events and the running of the section including writing this column. We wish them both well and hope to see them back in Bangkok soon.



#### Karen Carter

#### The St David's Society Ball



#### The annual St David's Society Ball will be held at

#### the Oriental Hotel on Saturday 28th February 1998

For more information and tickets please contact Carol Sandarusi on tel: 591 0694, fax: 960 4034 or Pat Lewis on tel/fax: 231 5383



#### A Time for Change

t's that time of year again, when your esteemed committee realises they can't put the AGM off any longer! With a Chairperson in absentia and an increasingly holiday-prone Secretary (especially with his impending retirement — no, I never thought I'd see it either, remarkable really) it is time that new blood was brought into the committee to pump life into the section.

#### Why Badminton?

Because it involves all the hot-and-sweatiness of a real sport, including considerable bouncing about (if you play like I do), with the funand-social aspects of a group game. The Badminton section is small-ish but perfectly formed and there is a range of talent amongst the group, but with badminton fairly easy to hit intermediate level (and advanced almost impossible!) it's a very open sport with all abilities welcome.

#### Where? And When?

Sunday sessions start at a reasonably dignified 11am at the Soi Nares courts behind Bangrak police station — just 7 minutes walk from the Surawong gates of the Club — from

which we stagger back at 1pm in time for a leisurely lunch.

Tuesday and Thursday evenings we have a court booked at the hall in Sukhumvit Soi 22, just down from the school, at which anyone can just turn up with racquet and smile and join in the mix-in format. Often we play with other players at the hall, which provides greater variety of playing styles and levels. Anyone wanting further information or even clarification of the above points then please contact either myself on 285 4721-2 or Barry or Wanna on 321 4599 or the new Chairperson, to be announced in the next issue!

#### So DON'T FORGET!

Spare a few minutes and make your way to the Surawong Sala on Sunday 25th January at about 1.20pm for the AGM; I'm hoping several players and their associates will be there to hail a new Presidente and possibly new other position-fillers by lunchtime!

Lotsaluv **Lek Farang** 

#### **Badminton AGM**

Sunday 25th January 1998 Surawong Sala

1.20pm, after the Sunday session at Soi Nares, Bangrak

Please be there and help keep the section going!!



to winning his medal section, Greg won the men's longest drive and nearest the pin. They left the club laden with prizes and thought of turning pro when they got back home. The Lamberts will be sadly missed as they have not only turned out for every game but also contributed to the organisation of events and the running of the section including writing this column. We wish them both well and hope to see them back in Bangkok soon.



#### **Karen Carter**

#### The St David's Society Ball



#### The annual St David's Society Ball will be held at

the Oriental Hotel on Saturday 28th February 1998

For more information and tickets please contact Carol Sandarusi on tel: 591 0694, fax: 960 4034 or Pat Lewis on tel/fax: 231 5383



#### A Time for Change

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#### Sport and Recreation News

Welcome back to those of you who ventured home for Christmas. I hope Santa managed to track you down and that your Christmas wishes were answered.

1998 looks like being an even busier year for the BC. The expansion of services offered to members is ever increasing, with great demands for catering and sporting services. Please do not hesitate to approach any of the management team if you have any new ideas or constructive suggestions.

Recapping on the events at the close of 1997... The last **swimming gala** for the year was held on Sunday 23rd November. Another successful event that was well supported by participants and helpers. Photos and results can be found in this issue. Another gala will be held in early March.

Sunday 14th December saw the Fitness Centre staff (Taweekiat, Amnat and Ruengrit) along with myself taking part in the **Terry Fox Run** in aid of cancer research. The event was well supported and as it is an annual event, I hope to muster up a stronger contingent from the BC next year (see photo).

December was typically very busy at the Club. On top of our regular services, there were more outside catering functions (parties) and additional events such as the Children's Sleepover and a Christmas party. The Carols by Candlelight 'Christmas Cracker' drew large crowds of people, as did the BC Ball, Christmas dinner and the New Year river cruise. So what's in store for 1998?

Early this year I am looking to introducing **racquetball** to the Club. A game similar to squash but with a larger (bouncier) ball and a shorter racquet with a larger racquet head. It is a great sport for all ages but slightly easier to learn than squash. With this in mind and if



supported, junior racquetball and/or squash can be pursued further in 1998.

**Tennis coaching** starts again on Friday afternoons from the 9th January. This course will be conducted by Tim Farthing of Sportathlon. **Swimming coaching** starts again on Saturday 10th. Please sign up in these Fitness Centre to guarantee your inclusion in these courses.

**Touch Rugby** will get under way early in the New Year. See the flyer included in this edition of Outpost and also the Management News. Further expansion of **sporting merchandise** is a high priority for the New Year. Likewise, **Fitness Centre** activities, improved fitness testing and target setting will be high on my list of developments in 1998.

Finally, I will be on leave from 30th January to 12th February to venture down under. I am confident that my staff in the Fitness Centre will be able to assist your needs.

Wishing you a prosperous 1998 and hope to see a lot more of you at the BC in the forthcoming year.

Lisa Fitzpatrick

Sport & Recreation Coordinator

#### **Calendar**

#### **British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - January**

#### Sunday



#### **Opening Times**

10am-11pm Churchill Bar **Lords Restaurant - Lunch** 11.30am-2pm **Lords Restaurant - Dinner** 6-10pm Poolside Bar 7.30am-10pm 6am-9pm Fitness Centre - Mon-Sat 9am-9pm Fitness Centre - Sun/Hols 9am-5pm Thai Massage - Tue/Sun

8am **Junior Tennis Tournament** 10.30am Adult Swimming Coaching 11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares 3-6pm Tennis Mix-In 4-6pm Children's Video 5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords





#### Sports - Contact the following:

Badminton Gaynor de Wit 237-4031 Julian Frost 314-4111-3 **Alex Forbes** 260-1950 Chris Gething 261-1963 Jon Prichard 712-1650 Cheryl Lamb David Turner 258-1382 279-1234 David Blowers 285-4721-2

**BWG Mahjong** 8am 9.30pm Aerobics **Squash Coaching** 6-8pm 7-9pm **Tennis Team Training** 

#### New Wembers Night

#### Tuesday



#### **Non-BC Sports**

Ladies Golf Will Agerbeek 259-7019 Eileen Cook 295-4596 BCLG LIGIT Hockey L Ladies Touch 258-5295 Lois Carson Rugby Lisa Fitzpatrick 266-0597

**Ladies Golf** 7am 9-11am Ladies Tennis 10.30am Aqua Aerobics 7-9pm Soccer Training 8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22 8-11pm Friendly Bridge 9pm Gentlemen's Spoof



Cricket

Golf

Rugby

Scuba

Squash Tennis

Football

NIST grounds **Behind Bangrak Police** Station

#### Soi 15

Soi Nares

Aerobics Squash court #3 Golf · As advertised

9.30am Aerobics 5-8pm Squash Coaching 6-9pm Tennis Mix-In

#### Thursday



6-9pm Squash Mix-In 7-9pm Rugby Training 8-10 pm Badminton - Soi 22

6-9pm Squash Mix-In 7-9pm Rugby Training 8-10 pm Badminton - Soi 22



7pm **Social Darts** 

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9.30am Aerobics 3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching **Social Darts** 7pm



8am **Junior Tennis** 8-11am Tennis Coaching 3-6pm Social Snooker 4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15

**Junior Tennis** 8am 9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching 10.30am Aqua Aerobics 8-11am Tennis Coaching 3-6pm Social Snooker 4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15 Swimming meeting - Churchill Bar

#### Don't Forget !!

- · Work off those Christmas calories for FREE! for the first month of Fitness Centre membership!
- · Attend the meetings for ladies' touch rugby and swimming this month and be part of these exciting new sections.
- Celebrate the second New Year of '98 the Chinese New Year on Wednesday 28th and welcome in the Year of the Tiger!

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10.30am Adult Swimming Coaching 11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares

Tennis Mix - In 3-6pm

Children's Video 4-6pm

5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

10.30am Adult Swimming Coaching

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares

3-6pm Tennis Mix - In 4-6pm Children's Video

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**Badminton AGM.** 

**BWG Mahjong** 8am

9.30am Aerobics

**Squash Coaching** 6-8pm

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**Ladies Golf** 7am

9-11am Ladies Tennis

10.30am Aqua Aerobics

7-9pm Soccer Training

8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22

8-11pm Friendly Bridge

9pm **Gentlemen's Spoof** 

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9.30am Aerobics 5-8pm Squash Coaching

6-9pm Tennis Mix-In

6-9pm Squash Teams competition

**Ladies Golf** 7am

9-11am Ladies Tennis

10.30am Aqua Aerobics

7-9pm Soccer Training 8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22

8-11pm Friendly Bridge

9pm **Gentlemen's Spoof** 

9.30am Aerobics

5-8pm Squash Coaching

Tennis Mix-In 6-9pm

6-9pm Squash Teams competition

7am

Ladies Golf

9-11am Ladies Tennis

10.30am Aqua Aerobics

7-9pm Soccer Training

8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22

8-11pm Friendly Bridge

9pm **Gentlemen's Spoof** 

9.30am Aerobics

5-8pm Squash Coaching

6-9pm Tennis Mix-In

**Squash Teams competition** 

6-9pm Squash Mix-In

7-9pm Rugby Training

8-10 pm Badminton - Soi 22

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6-9pm Squash Mix-In

7-9pm Rugby Training 8-10 pm Badminton - Soi 22 2 (°)

6-9pm Squash Mix-In

7-9pm Rugby Training 8-10 pm Badminton - Soi 22

Touch Rugby meeting - Churchill Bar

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9.30am Aerobics

3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching **Social Darts** 

7pm

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7pm

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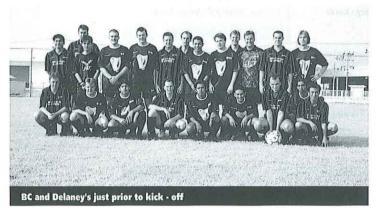
3-6pm Social Snooker

4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15



#### They Died With Their Boots On!

At least, that's how it felt at the very end of November when the BC Casuals made their third trip of the year up to Ayutthaya to play



in a 4-match tournament. The inaugural Katsuyama International Football tournament involved five teams of 11 playing round robin style with total points and goal difference sorting out the eventual winners, runners-up, etc. The opening ceremony included a speech by the Governor of Ayutthaya welcoming us all to the tournament. At least his Englishspeaking aide delivered the message for him. Unfortunately for us, owing to a clash with the St Andrew's Ball (a time when people suddenly develop a very strong affinity to hitherto unrecognised Scottish ancestry so they can join the fun), we travelled to Ayutthaya with a less than full strength team. Oh, all right, we had ten players initially, but were we daunted by the task ahead? You bet we were, but fortunately for us late-comers Chris Davin and Steve Duckworth turned up to lend a hand before the tournament progressed too far.

#### The Performance

Our first game in the already blistering mid-

morning sun was against a very skillful Thai veterans team which, we later found out, contained some former Thai National team players (football at that!). In any case, it was a close run thing which ended in a well deserved draw. Of particular note was the tireless legging it up and down the field of Marc Hagelauer. On occasion this also resulted in a goal which is what you like to see.

Our next game was against a Japanese Allstar team. These lads had been contacted through a Japanese newspaper advertisement and had come from all over the greater Bangkok area to put a team together for the tournament. Fortunately for us they didn't have much chance to develop their game and we soon found ourselves in a commanding lead which we carried through to the end.

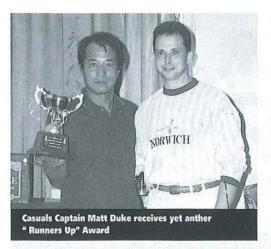
We really had to dig deep in the third game against our old rivals Delaney's. A hard fought draw was the final outcome as we retired to our oxygen tents to prepare for our final game against a very strong Scandinavian team. The points standings were such that a win would clinch the tournament trophy, a draw would depend on goal difference and a loss meant picking up the "also ran" trophy. We soon got into trouble and found ourselves flagging and two goals down. I can tell you that a Captain could never be prouder of the way the team lifted their spirits and the level of their game up several notches to claw their way back into the match. Some truly inspirational football resulted from this gallant show of spirit, coordinated from the back by a resurgent Ian Sanders. Two well taken goals brought us back to evens. As a result the Casuals



finished runners up (again!) but can take great heart in the spirit and style in which they played during that grueling tournament. Special mentions go to Steve "scar-face" Sloman for his full volley goal of the tournament and Steve "naa daeng" McGowan who scored the sauciest goal of the tournament when he lobbed the keeper from some considerable distance outside the box, surprising the keeper and himself. Dave Currey gets the Lazarus award for coming back from the dead just before every game and putting the foot in at the right moment for a much needed equaliser. Adam, Aki and Matt Duke all turned in solid performances as did Phil Jones, our itinerant keeper, who has since moved on to pastures new. Thanks also to Khun Sompong (a Katsuyama player) who not only helped us out in every game by making up the numbers but also played extremely well in all the Delaney's games as well. The tournament was very hard work but a very fun day out. The usual tomfoolery ensued at the reception afterwards including a sake drinking contest, national flag waving, impromptu conga line around the ball room and a rousing slaughter of what has become a kind of theme song for our trips to Ayutthaya "Let it be". Section members, I invite you to join us for our next trip up there. It's a sight not to be missed.

#### First Team Wrap-Up

With International League well under way it's time to give you a report on the trials and tribulations of this season's First XI. The first two games of the season went okay but lacked the result we were looking for. Owing



to such factors as lack of a well rounded out squad, the BC went down to the RBSC in the season opener. A better result seemed to be shaping up against the Scans but some late goals and perhaps some lagging fitness reversed the hoped for outcome to a second loss. How to stop the rot? With Captain Chris Davin returning from his trip, expectations were higher for the game against the Young Thai Sikhs even though we realised that they can be a tough team to beat due to their speed and fitness. However, the BC never really looked in too much trouble thanks to some excellent up-front work and scoring by Steve Sloman and Darren "Jacko" Jackson. Paul Dobbs had a relatively trouble-free time in goal thanks to some very clever defending from the back four of Willy Carruthers, Ian Sanders, Steve Duckworth and, adjusting to his new role as a central defender very well, Colin Harlow. Having a win finally under the belt the team looked forward with great anticipation to their game with the improving Delaney's side. Two very good goals by Steve Sloman and some nice combination work with Darren put the side into a great position. A mix up in





Just after the 'Sake' drinking contest; buck row I to r: Marc Hagelauer, Dave Currey, Steve Mc Gowan, Phil Jones and Steve Sloman. Front row I & r: <u>Adam Caro, Matt Duke, lan S</u>anders and Steve Duckworth

the box led to a cheeky goal for Delaney's but the BC looked poised to take a 2-1 victory away from the game when disaster struck. A flailing elbow caught Steve Sloman across the eyebrow and split is as neatly as a scalpel. When it was obvious to everyone that play should stop as he was seriously hurt a Delaney's player offered to run the ball out of play. At that time the BC players took him at his word and went to assist Steve. In a shocking display of unsportsmanlike conduct, the player in question continued to take the ball up the field and, when the referee (who seemed to have developed chronic deafness at this point) didn't blow the whistle, he released the ball to another Delaney's player who promptly scored and tied the game. Despite the disappointment of losing like that the First Team can take comfort in the fact that they are playing much better football now and should improve from here as other teams burn out. With plenty of depth in the overall squad to turn to in times of trouble the team should feel much more optimistic about the league end results.

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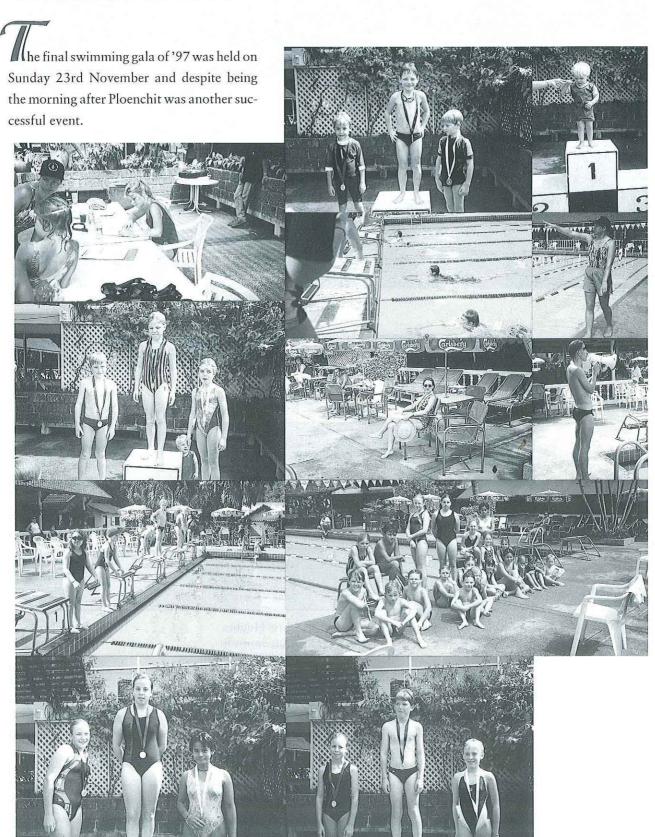


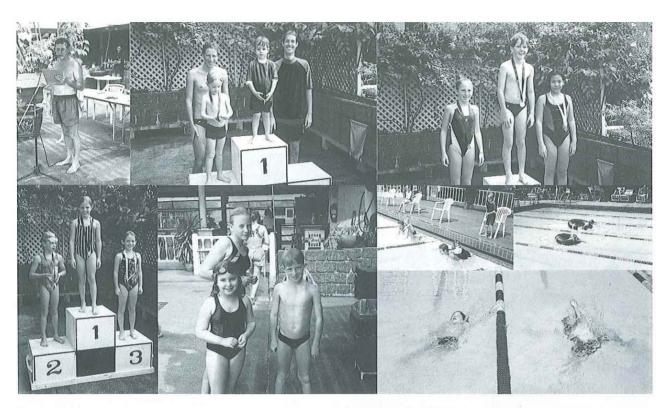
#### First ThaiCraft Sale of '98

The first ThaiCraft Sale for 1998 will take place on Saturday 7th February at the Landmark Plaza (between soi 4 & 6) from 10am-1pm. **Please note the time.** 

A wide variety of Thai handicrafts of quality available at reasonable prices - support Thai artisans and their precious craft traditions.

#### The Last of 1997





#### **The Results**

Event	Name	Time
13 and over Freestyle	<ol> <li>Bob Scott</li> <li>Kelvin Moffatt</li> </ol>	33.74 38.38
11-12 years Freestyle	<ol> <li>Nicola Clark</li> <li>Laura Hughes</li> <li>Sylvia Quarmby</li> </ol>	34.47 36.58 45.38
9-10 years Freestyle	<ol> <li>Leigh Gammons</li> <li>Lauren Moffatt</li> <li>Louisa Price</li> </ol>	17.64 18.32 19.06
7-8 years Freestyle	<ol> <li>Rebecca Clark</li> <li>William Scott</li> <li>Kelsey Moffatt</li> </ol>	18.19 20.30 21.93
5-6 years Freestyle	<ol> <li>Chris Hughes</li> <li>Alun Simpson</li> <li>Cameron Moffatt</li> </ol>	16.83 17.90 18.79
13 and over Breaststroke	1. Bob Scott 2. Andrew Simpson & Kelvin Moffatt	47.38 47.19
11-12 years Breaststroke	<ol> <li>Nicola Clark</li> <li>Laura Hughes</li> <li>Jay Smith</li> </ol>	47.98 50.90 57.10
9-10 years Breaststroke	<ol> <li>Leigh Gammons</li> <li>Louisa Price</li> <li>Ploy Siripornthanakul</li> </ol>	23,98 26.16 27.80

5-6 years Breaststroke 1. Chris Hughes 2. Cameron Moffatt	18.40
2. Cameron Moffatt	10.40
	19.81
3. Alun Simpson	21.17
13 and over Backstroke 1. Pavindee	46.84
2. Andrew Simpson	53.93
3. Bob Scott	57.61
11-12 years Backstroke 1. Nicola Clark	43.33
2. Laura Hughes	51.57
3. Jay Smith	53.38
9-10 years Backstroke 1. Leigh Gammons	23.45
2. Lauren Moffatt	25.36
3. Louisa Price	25.77
7-8 years Backstroke 1. William Scott	29.04
2. Kelsey Moffatt	31.89
3. Jessica Price	33.55
5-6 years Backstroke 1. Chris Hughes	19.99
2. Alun Simpson	23.98
Medley Relay 1. Kelsey M, Lauren J, Nicola C	
2. Darren S, Rebecca C, Laura H	
3. Leigh G, Jay S, Cameron M, William S	)
13 and over Butterfly 1. Bob Scott	16.15
2. Andrew Clark	19.09
3. Kelvin Moffatt	19.61
11-12 years Butterfly 1. Nicola Clark	20.22
2. Laura Hughes	22.80
3. Jay Smith	23.35
9-10 years Butterfly 1. Leigh Gammons	22.68
2. Lauren Moffat	27.00
3. Darren Salt	27.20
7-8 years Butterfly 1. William Scott	10.30
2. Rebecca Clark	12.25
3. Kelsey Moffatt	13.58
5-6 years Any Stroke 1. Debbie Campbell	10.85
2. Chris16.20	17 07
3. Alun Simpson & Cameron Moffatt	16.87
	1,25.45
Relay Freestyle 1. Laura H, Rebecca C, Darren	10711
2. Nicola C, Debbie, Lauren J, Kelsey M	1'37.14
	1 37.14
2. Nicola C, Debbie, Lauren J, Kelsey M 3. Ploy S, Michelle, Louisa P, Allan  11-13 years Individual Medley  1. Nicola Clark	1'39.72 1'39.13
2. Nicola C, Debbie, Lauren J, Kelsey M 3. Ploy S, Michelle, Louisa P, Allan	1'39.72

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#### Loy Krathong, BC-style!

he Loy Krathong celebrations marking the end of the rainy season were held poolside this year. In previous years the celebrations have been held on the back lawn with a Thai cultural and dance show; this year it was decided to economise and have a Thai buffet beside the pool. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Club staff who spent many hours before the event rehearsing their dances. I would like to thank them all for working so hard.

The event attracted 110 people, which was up on last year even though it was held on the same weekend as the Surin elephant round-up. The menu included numerous Thai dishes including stir-fried mussels with garlic, som tam and various khanom.

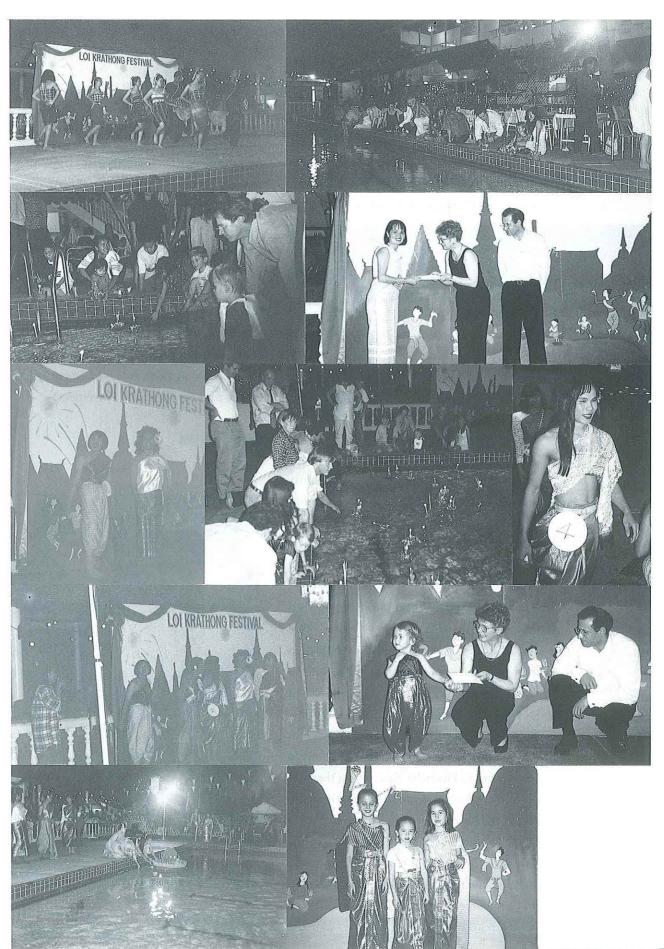
There was also a competition for the best

Thai costume; one for the ladies and one for the children. It was difficult to choose the best dressed as all the entrants looked so good and had spent a lot of time and trouble preparing their costumes. There was also another best dressed lady competition, with five of the BC male staff strutting their stuff like never seen on the premises before, which was well received by the members!

The conclusion of the evening was the floating of the krathongs on the swimming pool. They made a wonderful sight as the reflections of the candles glowed across the pool. With the success of this event it is planned to have a similar format next year!

#### Chirachida Suwanawong





#### Record-Breaking Ploenchit!

mid pessimistic speculation of low turnouts and reduced spending Ploenchit Fair opened its doors yet again in November for



the regulars and the curious, foreigners and locals alike. A hot and fairly humid day for winter, the beer tent retained its popularity throughout the day but especially - and traditionally - as the afternoon wore on. It seemed pretty busy to veteran Ploenchiters amongst us but with the new, improved layout of the back lawn facilities you couldn't really tell... First bit of good news came at 5.30pm when it was realised that the day's takings were slightly up on last year's, and I'm delighted to report that the almost-final figure appears to have also just slightly topped last year's at about 5.2 million baht! That's an incredible result, given the economy and all the recent doom and gloom, and reflects the immense popularity of Ploenchit Fair among the public and corporate community alike in pitching in to help the needy in Thailand.

All the traditional stands could be seen on the lawns of the British Embassy, including the hoop-la and tombola stalls, British Chamber of Commerce grand raffle, bingo, mini-Ferris wheel, market greengrocers, bottle stall and

many others. There were also some new attractions including one game whereby some skittle-shaped (I'm being polite) thing fell out of a framework and you had to try and catch it; it all looked too complicated to me but drew a huge crowd! And then there were the great bands and musicians to accompany the wine, beer and champagne, Bobby's Arms and Mrs Balbirs food aromas on the back lawn. All in all another great day and as usual I met several people I only ever seem to meet on the Embassy lawns in November!

#### **Gaynor de Wit**





#### Elephants Everywhere!

he evening of Loy Krathong in mid-November saw 70 intrepid BC'ers at Hua Lumphong for a weekend of elephants at the



70 BC'ers with several platform-loafers minutes before departure to Surin, 14/11/97

annual round-up in Surin, northeast Thailand. The fun started early in the morning, seeing the sorry sight of dozy heads appear from under curtains as we pulled into Surin, and it was still only half-light when the BC shower stumbled off the train and into the waiting bus to take us to a hearty BC breakfast and Thai-style showers at a local boys school equipped with a sizeable canteen. The gin bottle was soon opened but Sarah Allen was only too happy to forego her traditional bacardi at that point. The looks on the faces of those who had just given themselves a Thai shower for the first time was priceless, as were the tales of how all their clothes had fallen on the wet floor or, my favourite, that of a hearty swing of the water cup over the shoulder of one proficient bather soaked the clothes he had hung behind him...

The round-up ground was minutes from the school and we soon found ourselves in this seating construction, in prime position right next to the governor's fancy pavilion. The opening procession comprised a glamorous Miss Thailand World and the governor and his wife entering the arena on elephant back as well as the appearance of the youngest toto, all of 5 months old, who took a fancy to the drumstick of the bass drummer of the boy's band. And then came the elephants! Hundreds of them, from all directions, and every one with their personal mahouts who stay with them from childhood. Elephant hunt chases, football, basketball, standing exercises, stepping

over people (including a brave BC'er!) and the tug-o-war against a hundred soldiers put the elephants through their paces and even, er, extended the big 2-ton bull elephant!. But it was the dramatic re-enactments of historical ceremonies and battles which were the highlight of the whole show, as thousands of local people, many of whom schoolchildren, donned traditional costumes and performed Buddhist rituals, war battles and royal processions. Well-rehearsed and brightly dressed, the sheer scale of the cast placed this show way above the many elephant shows I've seen in this country. Fortunately, commentary on our side of the arena was in English too, which made it all the more meaningful.

We were quickly rounded up after the show and packed into buses to the picnic site, a tranquil lawn with several shade trees and a recently-unearthed Khmer ruin as the backdrop. Packed lunches were given out by Barry and his uniformed staff and while some nodded off others explored the Khmer ruin, the architecture of which we were reliably informed had a lot to do with sex but the explanation now seems blurred...

Next was an hour's drive to Phanom Rung, a majestic site atop one of the few hills in the area, on which a superb and much-renovated Khmer temple oversees the surrounding plains and the Cambodian border hills in the distance. A fascinating stop but again there was little time to look around at the well-stocked market. A long drive back to the school saw several of us doze off from the early start, not to mention all that fresh air.

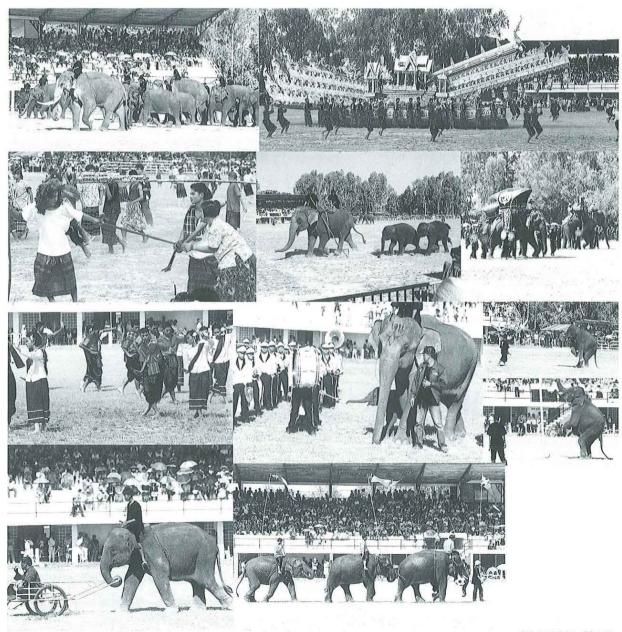
Dinner at the school with the BC staff serving up more traditional Churchill Bar menu fare, and then it was off for a one-hour town

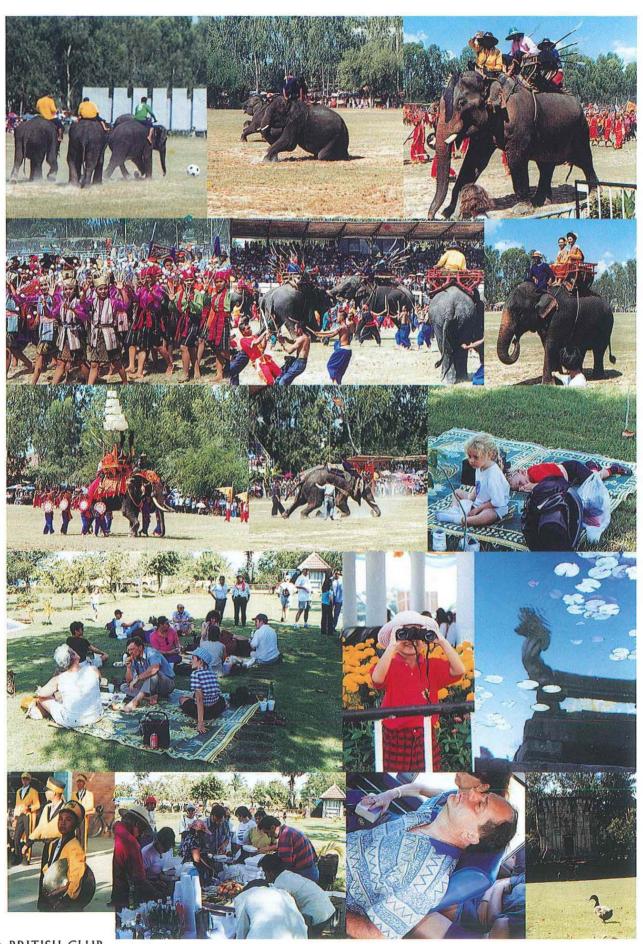


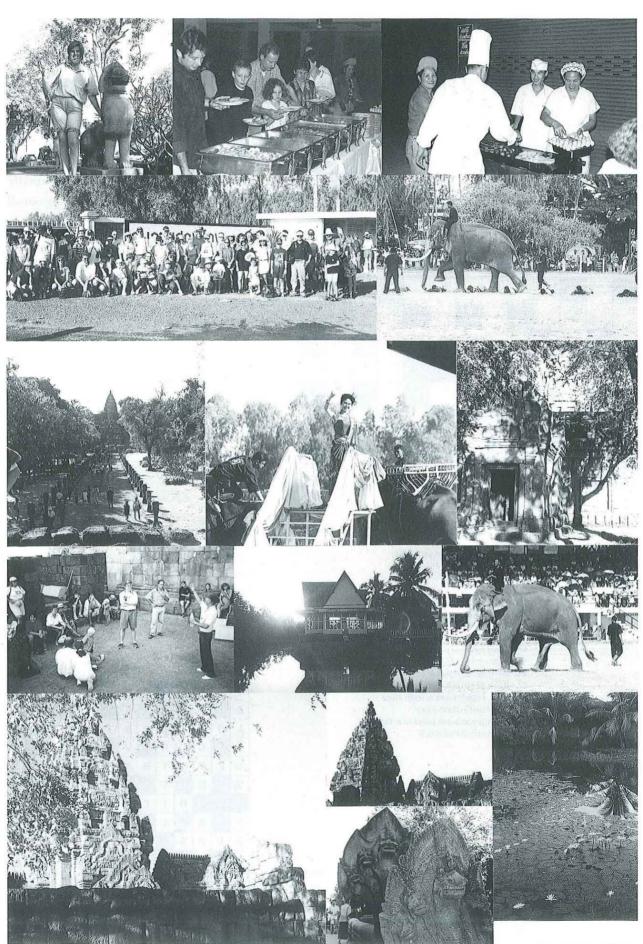
wander for some and a pit-stop for others, then back to the station and before you knew it we were pulling into Hua Lumphong. Reflections on the day-and-a-bit: the show was definitely worth it, and having an excellent position (even if the seats were rock-hard and sleep-inducing to the bum after 4 hours - a cushion is vital) made it rather special. I wish we'd had a little more time to see around

Surin town, what there is of it, but the trip to Phanom Rung more than made up for it this time. A great day out of the capital and all thanks to Tom, Barry and the staff for transporting a piece of the British Club to Isaan!

#### **Gaynor de Wit**

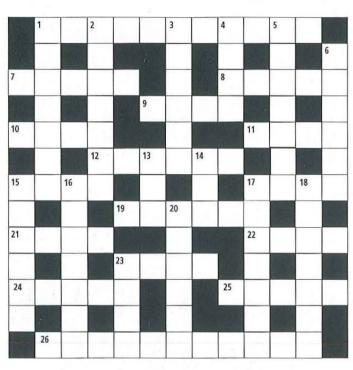






#### Crossword

#### Around the World in '98



ake a trip around the world with this globe-trotting crossword, as always expertly compiled by Margaret Miller, and dig out all your old geography knowledge.

#### Clues

#### Across

- Very deep depression in USA (5,6)
- He's a policeman in Britain
- Sick in the French for one of their cities
- Citizen of Copenhagen
- 10. Right out of order for a German river
- 11. Simplon is one
- 12 Rat in a mess for a capital place
- 15. Greek lover of a swan
- 17. A vast area
- 19. Right on top in Australia
- 21. He landed on Mount Ararat
- 22. It was a bowl in mid-west USA 23. Kind of quartz found in South Africa
- 24. Fertile spot in North Africa
- 25. The Flying Scotsman pulled on in Britain
- 26. Hot stretch in Phuket (6,5)

#### Down

- 1. He comes from Newcastle
- Husband of Queen Victoria with a part of 3 down
- Ada can make a nation
- Blue or white 4.
- 5. French City
- 6. Old Iran
- 13. Narrow estuary
- 14. With 5 down, a city in USA
- 15. Dr Johnson said that when you're tired of it you're tired of life
- 16. Defunct water where they found the scrolls (4,3)
- 17. Dora ran mix-up for a high spot in Europe
- 18. One SW chip around in East Anglia
- 20. Resort in Thailand
- 21. Alone, confused, in Norway

#### Last month's solution

γ	U	L	E		C	R	A	C	K	E	R	S
E		0	100			E		A		Y		T
L	0	G	S		R	E	1	N	D	E	E	R
L		G	15	A		V		E		L		E
0	P	E	M	Т	Н	E	M		K	1	S	S
W		R	1	T				K		D		S
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s		A	R	C				ľ		S		U
A	L	P	S	-	\$	C	0	T	S	IVI	A	N
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T	E	M	Н	0	U	R	S	3.4	A	L	E	S
A		T		L		0				L		E
S	N	0	W	F	A	L	L		U	S	E	D



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## When you really want to reach out and touch someone, you know who to call...



#### From the Chairman

managed to have an enjoyable festive season and that the year ahead, although it will undoubtedly bring hardships for most of us, will turn out to be not quite so severe as we are all anticipating at present.

It is perhaps appropriate to begin the year with a review of the Club's position, particularly the effect that the country's economic chaos seems to be having on it and what we are trying to do in order to compensate.

As I have said a number of times before, membership numbers have been declining for quite some time and there is little indication that this trend is likely to change, all other things being equal. This, together with the inevitable rise in costs that we are all facing, is beginning to take its toll on the Club's finances. This is not to say that our finances are bad at the moment, they are not, but the indications are becoming stronger and stronger every month that trouble lies ahead if the current trends are not altered in some way. In a nutshell, for years the Club has always relied on entrance fees paid by incoming new members to balance its books and 1997 has turned out to be the first year for quite a while where this has not proved possible even though expenditure has been tightly controlled. The Club has, therefore, suffered a deficit, albeit a fairly small one, for the year ending 30th November 1997.

In considering what steps need to be taken to try and correct this, the Committee has obviously looked at subscriptions and entrance fees which have not, perhaps mistakenly in retrospect, been increased for several years. However, in these hard times we are of the opinion that increasing these charges should

(3)

be the last resort and we have thus decided firstly to take the offensive as far as membership is concerned and try to boost the Club's finances by making a real effort to increase membership numbers. To achieve this we

have decided to appoint a Membership and Marketing Manager whose full time job it will be to market the Club and its facilities and to attract and enrol new members to the Club. Khun Chirachada, the current Catering Manager, has been appointed to this position as from 1st January. The success of this venture will be closely monitored and should our belief that there



are a lot of potential new members out there who can be brought into the fold in this way prove to be unfounded, then by the middle of 1998 a further review of the situation will have to be undertaken and an increase to our subscriptions and entrance fees may have to be considered.

I hope you will all join me in wishing Khun Chirachada well in her new appointment and that, should the opportunity arise, you will give her and her marketing efforts all the support you can in the months to come. Furthermore, perhaps I could ask you all to make a New Year's Resolution for 1998 to use the Club and all it has to offer more this year than you did last.

Dugal Forrest Chairman

#### British Club General Committee

**Dugal Forrest** 

James Young

**Phil Evans** 

**Bernie Adams** 

**David Henton** 

**David Turner** 

Ian Webb

Mike Lamb

**Colin Hastings** 

The Committee is:

Chairman

Treasurer

T. 398 3807 F. 399 1564

T. 714 9040 F. 714 9039

T. 246 8844 F. 645 3400

T.6740810-1 F.2102332

T. 254 6819 F. 254 4849

T. 279 1234 F. 279 1234

T. 656 8378-9 F. 253 9500

T. 2370777 F. 2370780

T. 240 3700-9x1511

Sport/Sponsorship

Club Development

Club Development

Sponsorship

Membership

Club History

F. 240 3843

James Woodford T.326 0660 F. 326 1123

Vice Chairman/Sport



Dugal **Forrest** 

Phil

**Evans** 

David

Henton

lan

Webb

Colin



**James** 



Young



Bernie



Adams



**David** 



Turner

Wike



Lamb

James



Tom Bain



8 8

"

Barry Osborne Operations Manager

Club Staff



General Manager

**Hastings** Woodford If you have any questions about the British Club or if you have any suggestions, please

call any of the Committee Members above or the General Manager on 234 0247

#### Security



**Pest Control** 



Janitorial Division



Abseil Facade Cleaning







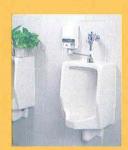


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