



OUTPOST

MAGAZINE

JANUARY • 2003



16

Christmas Ball
2002



16

Christmas Ball
2002



17

Loy Krathong



17

Surin Elephant
Round-up

TRSC

The New Era of LASIK

B.E.S.T. in LASIK at TRSC

- Biggest** Spacious 1,700 square meter stand-alone LASIK facility.
- Experience** Team of extremely experienced LASIK specialists who pioneered LASIK in Thailand almost a decade ago.
- Service** First Class Service for our patients in every step of the way, before and after treatment.
- Technology** The most technological advanced instruments for the most effective performance of LASIK has to offer. Currently, we are offering "**Zyoptix LASIK**" which is the most advanced technology in the world of LASIK.



The Leader in LASIK
ISO 9001 : 2000 Certified

www.lasikthai.com

TRSC International LASIK Center : 6th Fl., U Chu Liang 968 Rama IV Rd. Bangkok 10500

Bangkok Tel. 0-2733-2020 Chiang Mai Tel. 0-5335-7911 www.lasikthai.com E-mail : info@lasikthai.com

January

Advertisers

Many thanks to our advertisers this month, without whom this magazine would not be possible:

- Chubb/Guardforce
- Dulwich International College, Phuket
- Holistic Health Systems
- Jentana & Associates
- Lawton
- Metro Magazine
- Papa Alfredo's
- Patana International School
- Portsmouth Mann International Ltd
- Shrewsbury International School
- SriLankan Airlines Limited
- TRSC International
- Transpo

The British Club is a family, social and sporting club, set in relaxing grounds, conveniently located between Silom and Surawongse Roads, with an ever-growing international membership.

For details about the Club contact the Membership Marketing staff at:

The British Club

189 Surawongse Road, Bangkok 10500
Tel: (0) 2234 0247
Fax: (0) 2235 1560
Email: britclub@loxinfo.co.th
Website: www.britishclubbangkok.org



OUTPOST MAGAZINE

The contents of this magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, the General Committee or the Management of the Club.

OUTPOST Magazine is produced on behalf of the British Club by The Creative Partnership.
To advertise please contact
Mr. David Blowers or K. Saranluck at:

The Creative Partnership

2240/3-4 Chankaow Rd., Chongnontri,
Yannawa, Bangkok 10120, Thailand
Tel: (0) 2285 4721-3 Fax: (0) 2678 1292
Email: info@creativethailand.com
Website: www.creativethailand.com

Contents

REGULAR FEATURES

BC Centenary At a Glance	30
Calendar	19
Crossword	14
General Manager's Message	6
Hellos and Goodbyes	5
Members Letters	8
	26
New Members Night	5
Relaxed Regulars - Chill out After Christmas	20
Sports Update - Ready, Steady, Go!	9
What's On - New Year, New Events...	7

SPORTS

Golf - BC Beats GCL...	22
Scuba - A Wet and Wonderful World	12

MEMORIES

Loy Krathong	17
Surin Elephant Round-up	17
Esarn Food Promotion	16
Christmas Ball	16

FEATURES & EVENTS

Spoofing - For Scotland, Pissamai & The SpooF	29
National Museum Volunteers Lecture	20
Centenary Special - Over 100 and Still Saving Lives	10

FROZEN PENSION IN THE U.K.?

**LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR
OPTIONS ARE?**

IT'S SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK

For further details and a free analysis call Gavin Broad
on **252 8405**, alternatively fax this form to us on **253 9500**.

Name: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Address: _____

73/8 Soi 4, Sukhumvit Road,
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Tel: 252 8405 Fax: 253 9500

Email: invest@portsmouth-mann.com



FRIENDS PROVIDENT

————— *One-stop shopping for life assurance and pensions* —————

NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT

The Churchill Bar is the place to be for new Members, and what a jolly mob we had at the last New Members' Night in November. Newcomers to the Club came to meet each other over a drink (or two) and introduced themselves, via *Outpost*, to the full Club membership. This is always a good evening and I'm sure all will agree that this was an especially successful night! All Members are welcome to come along and join in the merriment (remember, as it's always held on a Tuesday, it's also Ladies' Night).

NOAH SHEPHERD

British

An old-timer already, Noah has chosen to live here for the past 9 years with RPT Asia Ltd. He kayaks in rivers, seas, lakes and klongs whenever possible and generally enjoys anything to do with the great outdoors. He is a man of many talents - past Chair of Phuket International School, ex-Rotarian and an amateur magician! Any party tricks?



MAHESH & MONALI ABHYANKAR

Indian

After spending years in the Arab states, Mahesh and Monali are very active in Thailand. They both swim and play tennis and Mahesh is particularly fond of cricket. They enjoy good food and good sport and joined the BC to encourage their two young children to develop their own sporting interests. Their ambition is to give their kids a happy, well-balance future. Very admirable!



MATTAYA VATANASUK

Thai

Mattaya has come of age! Having been a family Member for many years, she now gets to pay her own bills. She works with Orange in the IT department and in her spare time loves scuba diving and hanging out with marine creatures. Mattaya also enjoys having the odd drink with friends and singing (karaoke, perhaps?).



UDO & MARTINA MITZSCHKE

German

An active family, Udo (Seimens), Martina (teacher at French School) and their 6 year old son probably do more sports than any of us - swimming, Taekwondo, diving, squash, biking, skiing, scuba diving, soccer, tennis, cricket, judo, trekking, mountaineering, rock climbing and Backgammon! When they sit still, they like to watch art performances, musicals and theatre production. Living only 5 minutes from the Club, Members should expect to see a lot of the Mitzschke family.



DAVID & JENNY PRESTON

Chillington Tools sent David here about 3 months ago, with Jenny arriving only 3 days before New Members' Night (watch out for Jenny - strong constitution ensuring no jet-lag). Realistic hobbies in Bangkok include badminton and golf, their unrealistic ones being rose cultivation and Formula 1 racing. With 2 kids and 2 grandchildren destined to visit, Jenny will be kept busy discovering Bangkok and environs.



Hellos and Goodbyes

Please join us in welcoming the following new Members and their families. We look forward to seeing them around the Club.

Miss Zoe Brittain
Mrs. Josephine Healy
Mrs. Akshee Sacheti
Mrs. Monica Gupta
Mr. David Kenney
Mr. Craig McLean
Mr. Julian Durant
Mr. Robert Redman
Mr. Richard Banks
Mr. Steven Gibson
Mr. Darren Blackhurst
Mr. Alex Stamp

Mr. Ian Stewart
Mr. Krailert Buakaew
Mr. Michael Peschel
Mr. Gerardus van der Putten
Mr. Sushil Dhanuka
Mr. Morten Porsild
Mr. Jimmy Jensen
Mr. David Romlin

Welcome back to:

Mrs. Juthamas Tangsantikul
Mr. Graham Mattison

Farewell and good luck to the following departing Members and their families:

Mrs. Sonia Johnson
Richard & Susan Thomson
Peter & Frances Tan
Rupert & Karen Townsend
Peter & Orawan van Zanten
Mr. Barry Firth
Mrs. Neelendra Panditaratne
Neville & Amararak Melliush
Ravi & Ritu Agrawal
Mr. Stephen Ross
Howard & Stella Bryant
Charles & Lindy Davin

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,



First of all, on behalf of the all the staff and management of the Club I would like to wish you a healthy and prosperous 2003.

This is a very special year as we will celebrate our 100 Year Anniversary throughout the year, and lots of activities are planned to celebrate this event.

On Saturday, 8 February we will be organising a typical British Street Fair with live entertainment, activities for the children, an acrobatic show and BBQ. The event will finish with a fireworks display at approximately 7.00pm. This will be an afternoon full of joy and fun for the entire family.

Also for the this centenary year we will be selling specialised merchandise like polo shirts, caps, ties and other items to highlight the Centenary celebrations.

On the development side we are making progress. The Club House toilets have been slightly delayed but will be completed by early January 2003. The newly air-conditioned massage area has been refurbished and is back in business at squash court 3. The new children's changing room, located at the back of the Silom Sala, will be ready for use towards the end of January 2003.

In December 2002 we wrote to Members who have a standing order with the Club for paying monthly dues. The standing orders will be phased out and replaced with Direct Debit by credit card, or with the following Banks; Standard Chartered Nakornthon Bank, Hong Kong Bank, Bank of Asia, Thai Farmers bank, Siam Commercial Bank and Bangkok Bank. If you need any assistance from the Club please do not hesitate to contact Khun Prem (Financial Controller) or myself.

We are all looking forward to a very exciting centenary year and hopefully see you in a not too distant future at your Club.

Yours sincerely,

Willem T. P. Pentermann
General Manager

BOOK ON-LINE!

www.britishclubbangkok.org

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

The British Club General Committee 2002/2003

Name		Tel	Fax	Email
Bob Marchant	<i>Chairman</i>	(0) 2714 8070-3	(0) 2714 8504	bobm@asiabell.co.th
Chris Moore	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	(0) 2740 4521	(0) 2740 4530	lasanne@loxinfo.co.th
Paul Cheesman	<i>Vice-Chairman/ Honorary Secretary</i>	(0) 2677 5246	(0) 2677 5246	paulc@loxinfo.co.th
Nick Bellamy	<i>Treasurer</i>	(0) 2955 0099 x 8760	(0) 2955 0300	nbellamy@th.mweb.co
David Eastgate		(0) 2672 0123-5	(0) 2672 0127	davide@loxinfo.co.th
James Young		(0) 2712 5407-9	(0) 2712 5410	asiapac@mozart.inet.co.th
Sarah Allen		(0) 2618 7813	(0) 2618 7811	sarahem@ksc.th.com
Simon Davies		(0) 2253 7719	(0) 2253 7504	simon@jts.jp.co.th
Bruce Hill		(0) 2937 4940	(0) 2937 4952	subru@loxinfo.co.th
Angela Daniel		(0) 2258 8495	(0) 2258 8495	ange@loxinfo.co.th

WHAT'S ON

New Year, New Events...

WINE TASTING

Friday, 10 January 2003 at 7.00pm

The Wordsworth Lounge is the venue for tasting this delicious selection of Italian wines, provided by Corbelli Wines Ltd. A complimentary cocktail buffet will be provided.

NEW MEMBER'S NIGHT

Tuesday, 14 January 2003 at 7.30pm

This is an excellent opportunity to meet new Members who recently joined the Club. Cocktail buffet and entertainment by No Fixed Abode are the standard fare for this evening in the Churchill Bar.

EUROPEAN NETWORKING NIGHT

Thursday 16 January 2003 at 6.00pm

Held for the third year running, this has become an annual event on the British Club Calendar. Nationals from all European Chambers will be out in force to meet each other and discuss anything, from business to the latest trend in sky-diving! Beverages at Club prices and complimentary cocktail food will be served.

ART ATTACK CLASSES

Saturday 18 January 2003

Saturday sees the start of another course of the very enjoyable Art Attack classes with Vanessa Christian. All children are welcome from 1.30pm – 3.00pm. Please register at reception.

Charge: B5000 for 12 weeks
(including 2 make-up sessions).

BRITISH CLUB STAFF PARTY

Monday 20 January 2003

The Food and Beverage facilities will be closed for the entire day but the Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts and Squash Courts will be open for Members' usage.

FOOD PROMOTION

30 – 31 January

Enjoy the flavors of Canada! Barry and the kitchen team will prepare an excellent selection of mouth-watering dishes from Canada. Lord's Dining Room is the place to be.

Charge: B 600 per person for the buffet dinner.

FEBRUARY

BRITISH CLUB STREET PARTY

Saturday 8 February 2003

From 2.00pm – 7.00pm on the British Club Lawns, Members will find great entertainment for the whole family - stilt-walkers, jugglers, children's games, close-up magic, Ferris wheel, Balloon Typhoon, pony riding, traditional Scottish and British games, live entertainment and a great fire work display at approx. 7.00pm. **Charge:** B 300 per person (there is no charge for children 3 years and under).

SWIMMING GALA

Sunday 9 February 2003

Come get wet at the Club! Warming up for success is at 8.00am and the competition will start at 9.00am. If you're not a competitive swimmer, why not come along anyway and cheer the rest on. A great family day for all ages especially as lunch is included.

Registration Fee: B 200 per entry.

CLUB MANAGER'S NIGHT

Tuesday 11 February at 6.30pm

Welcome to 2003!! Join Willem Pentermann in the Churchill Bar for this sociable evening, catching up with fellow members and enjoying entertainment from No Fixed Abode. As usual a complimentary curry buffet will be served.

LOY NAVA

Saturday 15 February 2003

Join us on the Loy Nava dinner cruise.

Charge: B 1200. The cost includes dinner and half a bottle of wine per person.

BRITISH CLUB SPORTS CAMP

24 – 27 February 2003

Held daily from 9.00am – 4.30pm, the camp includes, tennis, squash, swimming, cricket, soccer, games, video, snacks and lunch.

Charge: B 850 per day or B 3400 for all 4 days.



MEMBERS LETTERS

The editor Outpost magazine

I am writing this letter to "Outpost" because I am fed up with being disenfranchised. Whilst I used to be a real member of the British Club I had to hand over my membership and therefore the right to attend any EGM, the AGM, or vote on any matters, when my wife decided to stand for election to the General Committee.

Under the current rules of the British Club of Bangkok I therefore have no say in its operations or future plans. As a frequent user of the Club, my wife would say far too frequent at least as regards the use of the Churchill Bar!, I would like to have a say in the future!

At the time of writing the process of extended debate on the future development of the club continues, and final decisions will emerge from the EGM and the GC. The process of deciding how to invest in the future of the club has made clear to me and many other members that the way the club is managed is fundamentally flawed. I am of course not entitled to a vote on any of these issues as I am merely the "spouse".

So I have a few suggestions that I would like a real member to use as the basis of motions at the next AGM to change the constitution

1 Family members, who are the majority of members by number, and the greatest contributors to the Club funds, are disadvantaged by the current rules as regards voting rights. The rules should be amended so that a person joining and paying fees as a family member gets to nominate two voting members.

2 At the AGM when electing the General Committee, the members should also directly elect the officers of the Club,

namely the Chairman, Treasurer and Honorary Secretary.

3 The General Committee of the Club shall bring to the AGM each year a budget for the next years operations and a capital investment plan for the next three years, and the new committee shall report on progress against both of these documents on a quarterly basis in writing to the members. Operations shall be required to achieve approximate break even and joining fees shall be devoted entirely to capital developments.

4 That capital expenditure in excess of 10% of the surplus available at any time shall require approval by a simple majority of the active members. Voting can be in person, by mail or via the internet, and the process will be open for say a two week period. For this purpose active members will be those spending on average over the previous three months more than half of the average expenditure by all members.

So, my first suggestion; the voting rights should be update from the days of the raj, when the memshab stayed at home, while the man of the house went to Club with the other golly food chaps! Indeed there are probably still members who seem to think that is the right approach, damm it after all a man would have no control over his Club if his wife could vote as well! The time to provide family members with voting rights to reflect their financial contribution to the Club is long overdue.

The second suggestion I make is that the club updates the process of electing the officers of the Club, currently in smoke filled rooms the "boys" of the "inner circle" gather and determine who shall be Chairman each

year, and the same applies to the other officers. Nor I do not myself think this system has worked badly in the recent past, but it is a ludicrous hang-over from a bygone age. In other British Clubs where I have been a member this was rectified years ago! Let us vote at the AGM for the officers of the Club as well as the ordinary members of the General Committee.

The third suggestion I have is to make the entire process of running the club more accountable to the members and rather more disciplined. The discipline will be the need to explain periodically to members what is happening in the finances of our club and how our funds are being used. The difference between the current operations and the longer term capital budget is a way of reducing the chances of the successive committees flip flopping on the planned capital investments in the facilities of the club. It is not an absolute control, I don't think such an approach is desirable but it will I believe be sufficient to ensure a steady direction of capital investment in the facilities members choose to prioritise.

My final suggestion is again linked to the capital investment in the facilities of the club. Whilst I think the EGM route we are currently following is perfectly good and should not be lost, it seems to me that if we got our active members to

participate in a vote at their convenience over an extended period, then it is much more likely we will not need so many EGM's called or held in the future.

Why active members and how to determine them, well because I believe that those members who most often use the Club should have a significant say in its future, as they use the Club they generate the revenue which enables the Club to operate at break even. An occasional visitor from upcountry should be able to enjoy the Club but surely not block a development desired by the active members!

My proposed definition of an active member is aimed to be easy to calculate and yet achieve the purpose. The concept, which I hope I have explained, is more important than the exact method of determining who is an active member!

So please a real member take up my suggestions and let's update our quaint but hopelessly outdated constitution.

Yours sincerely

Ged Allen (Spouse of member A93)

16 Dec 02

SPORT'S UPDATE

Ready, Steady, Go!

All sports training will stop over the festive period and start again in January 2003 on the following dates:

Junior Cricket starting from Sunday 19 January 2003

Time:	9.00am – 11.00am
Venue:	Back Lawn – Cricket Nets
Charge:	B 3000 for 10 lessons.
Trainer:	Mr. Brian Wiggins, qualified Australian coach.

Junior Tennis starts on Friday 17 January 2003

Beginners age between 5 and 8	4.00pm – 4.30pm B 3000
Intermediate age 9 – 11 years	4.30pm – 5.30pm B 4000
Advanced age 12 – 16 years	5.30pm – 6.30pm B 5000
Charges are for a 10 week session.	
Coach:	Zubin and Piyant Engineer.

Junior Squash starting on Friday 17 January 2003

Mini squash 5 – 7 years of age	4.30pm – 5.15pm
Junior Squash 8 – 10 years of age	5.15pm – 6.00pm
Venue:	Squash Court Number 3.
Charge:	B 1900 for 10 lessons.

Junior Swimming with the Bangkok Dolphins

The Friday lessons will start again on 17 January 2003 and Saturday lessons on 18 January 2003.

Charge: B 3000 for 10 lessons.

Teakwondo lessons starts on Sunday 19 January 2003

Time:	10.30am – 12.00nn
Venue:	Squash Court Number 3.
Charge:	B 1800 for 10 lessons.

Aqua Aerobics starts 14 January 2003

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10.30am – 11.30am

Venue:	Main Pool
Charge:	B 2500 for 10 lessons.
Trainer:	Els van den Broecke

Aerobics classes are every Monday from 13 January 2003

Time:	9.30am – 10.30am
Venue:	Squash Court 3.
Charge:	B3000 for 10 lessons.

CENTENARY SPECIAL

article by BNH Hospital International Centre

Over 100 and Still Saving Lives



The development of the electro-cardiograph (ECG) as a diagnostic aid is just over one hundred years old. The Dutch scientist Willem Einthoven invented the 'string galvanometer' in 1901, and in 1902 he published the first example of an ECG using his new device.

This forerunner of the modern ECG led to advances in understanding the electro-mechanics of heart-function. Now for the first time it was possible to 'see' how the heart worked, more importantly it was possible to observe its abnormal rhythms, or arrhythmias. This was a great advance in the understanding, identification and treatment of heart conditions.

Just six years after the development of the string galvanometer a London pharmacology professor, Arthur Cushny recorded and described the distressing condition of Atrial Fibrillation. But more relevant to large numbers of contemporary patients the changes that occur in angina were first identified in 1909.

The string galvanometer was to become known as the ECG (or EKG in the USA). To this day it continues to be a major diagnostic and monitoring tool in all fields of medical care.

Modern ECG's are lightweight and portable enough for a nurse or doctor to carry with them when on emergency calls. Not only are they able to diagnose arrhythmias some are also capable of delivering a defibrillating shock to restart a failing heart. With out the ECG modern surgical techniques, anaesthesia, coronary and intensive care would not be possible.

Developing alongside the ECG, a more radical and controversial device was in the making: the external pacemaker. This piece of technology has been responsible for saving many lives since its first experimental use in the early part of the 20th Century. The first external pacemakers were large and cumbersome, and could only deliver the life-saving work via a probe inserted directly through the external chest wall. This was not the most efficient, effective or safest way to maintain a failing rhythm. The first machine had to be powered by hand-cranking - here then were the limits of

contemporary technology. This placed severe restrictions upon the use and effectiveness of the device.

However, scientists love a challenge, and over the years the large, cumbersome and hazardous pacemaker has been transformed into a device so compact that can be implanted into the chest muscle and will remain in place and functioning for many years.

These two devices have helped to extend the lives of countless people across the globe. From their unwieldy beginnings in the early 20th Century to the state-of-the-art portable and implantable technology of today, those who need the help of such medical aids have the assurance that they are readily available.

During its 104th year the BNH Hospital (AKA Bangkok Nursing Home) commissioned a state-of-the-art Heart Centre, demonstrating its commitment to the provision of best of international care to expatriates and visitors to Bangkok.

The BNH Hospital congratulates our close neighbour the British Club on its 100th Anniversary.

The Hospital offers the best standard of international health care and members of its International Centre are available to help the expat and tourist community in Bangkok, and beyond.

BNH Hospital, 9/1 Convent Road, Silom, Bangkok, 10500

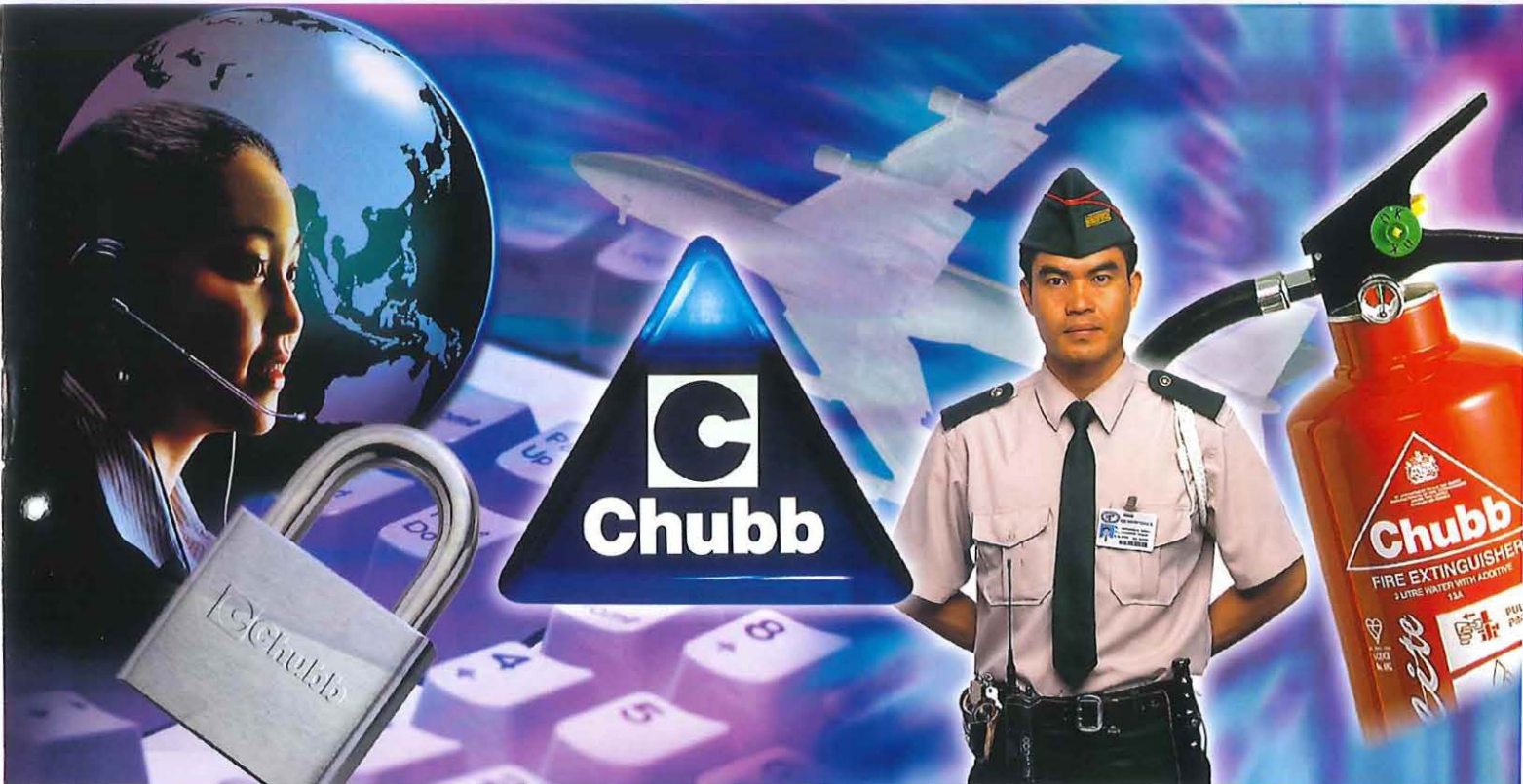
Tel: 02 632 0550 ext 3037, 3089, 3088

Fax: 02 632 0579

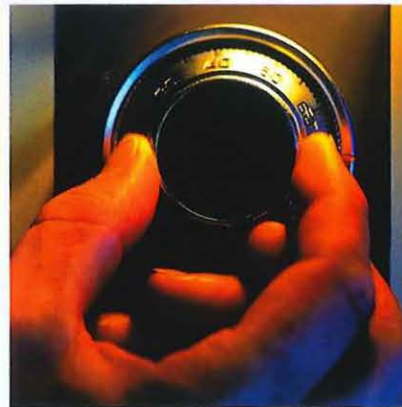
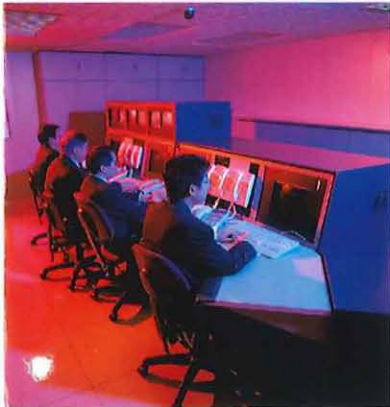
Email: bnhinter@co.th

Web: www.bnhhospital.com

SAVING LIVES, PROTECTING PROPERTY, PREVENTING CRIME



คุ้มครองชีวิต ปกป้องทรัพย์สิน ป้องกันอาชญากรรม



Offering Thailand comprehensive fire and security solutions.
Capable professionals, the finest in products & electronic systems
with over 180 years experience.

Chubb (Thailand) Limited

THB Building, 7th Floor, 42/2 Moo 10, Km 4.5
Bangna Trad Road, Bangna, Bangkok 10260
Tel. (66) 2 746-7000 Fax. (66) 2 746-7001
E-mail: info@chubb.co.th
www.chubb.co.th



Guardforce

SCUBA

A Wet and Wonderful World

Starting in 2003, I am scheduling at least three activities every month. In addition, there will also be one weekend day for Discover Scuba. Please visit the BCB website's Scuba Section to get the latest activity dates and times.

There will be a 10% discount for courses taken during the posted schedule. If you are unable to attend the scheduled courses I will still conduct flexible scheduled courses as time allows.

I am also providing another price break. When my students complete both the Open Water Course and the Advanced Open Water Course within two months of each other, the price of the Advanced Open Water course will be reduced by 15%.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST OPEN WATER DIVERS:

Mark McConnell and Dave Thomas.
Congratulations also to Susanna Hall and
Mariya Gainsford for qualifying as Skin Divers.



HERE IS A BRIEF LISTING OF THE EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2003:

Scheduled activities for 2003

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Standard Courses													Number of Dives
Discover Scuba	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	V	x	x	x	1 Pool
Scuba Review	x		x		x		x		A		x		1 Pool
Skin Diver			x		x	x	x		C	x		x	3-4 Pool
Open Water	x				x			x	A				4-5 Pool, 4 Open Water
Adv Open Water		x				x			T	x			5 Open Water
CPR/First Aid			x				x		I		x		None
Rescue Diver				x				x	O			x	2-3 Pool, 5 Open Water
Dive Master					x			x	N	x			Min 20 to start, Min 60 to finish
Standard Specialities													
Photo	x								V				1 Pool, 2 Open Water
Wreck				x					A				4 Open Water
Drift									C			x	2 Open Water
Navigation		x						x	A				1 Land practice, 3 Open Water
Deep			x						T		x		4 Open Water
Search & Recovery						x			I	x			1 Pool, 4 Open Water
Peak Performance							x		O				2 Open Water
Night					x				N				3 Open Water
Distinctive Specialities													
LifeGuard		x				x					x		Pool Only
Master Lifeguard					x					x			Pool
Recompression Chamber								x					None
Special Events													
Dive Trip #1		x							V				10 to-15
Dive Trip #2			x						A				10 to 15
Dive Trip #3									C			x	10 to 15
ADEC Scuba Show BKK					x				A				None
UW Photo Contest									T	x			None
Annual BBQ								x	I				None
UW Golf Tournament						x			O				BCB Pool
UW Christmas Tree Party									N			x	BCB Pool
HRMS Kharm		x											New sunken ship at Koh Phi - Feb 2nd

As you can see, I have scheduled the courses to allow two sets of courses for the Open Water, Advanced Open Water, Rescue Diver, with the one set of five specialty courses to qualify for Master Scuba Diver in addition to start the Divemaster program all in one year.

I have included some photographs, which are only a small fraction of the marine life during past dive trips to show you what you might see on the trips for 2003.

Peter C. Gary



Solve the clues A to O and enter the answer in the top grid. Reading down, the initial letters of the first word in each clue will give you the title of a famous work by a great novelist. Enter each letter according to their number in the corresponding numbered space in the lower grid. Reading along, you will find a quotation from the book. Just out of interest, do you know which book?

A	Supplementary material	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
B	He Teach? A wild cat!	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
C	Give an ear to.	15	16	17	18	19	20				
D	My word is confused - disgraceful behaviour!	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
E	Man and St. Helena.	29	30	31	32	33	34	35			
F	Lower lash - it is less profound.	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	
G	Reflective.	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
H	Epistles.	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62		
I	The sisters' head.	63	34	65	66	67	68				
J	LXVII	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
K	Neat homes?	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86		
L	Came to in an old fashioned way.	87	88	89	90	91	92				
M	Opened up roughly.	93	94	95	96	97	98				
N	Ripe coat - and musical.	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106		
O	It comes to us - good or bad.	107	108	109	110						

					72	83	43		106	50	13
26	78		46	84		98	93	4	23		88
103	35		109	39	89	30	100	75	20		59
65	47	53	45		9	105	82		55	70	2
6	107	77			94	12		42	1	68	
28	87	34	16		22	52		8	63	86	37
64	80	71	19	36		90	11	73	57		95
7	85	31	99	79	110	67		40	56	18	49
10	102	74		3	91	61	24	69		32	5
92		14	101	38	76	25		96	48	44	62
17	58		81	21	41	108	60	15	51		29
33		27	104	66	97	54					

Solution to December crossword

1	A		2	A		3	B				4	T		5	T		6	T
7	M	A	S	T	E	R			8	H	O	M	A	G	E			
	O		C		L		9	B			F		B				E	
10	T	H	E	E	L	I	E				11	F	R	O	N	T		
	H		N		S		T				11	E		R			H	
12	E	N	D	S		13	T	H	R	E	E							
	R		S		14	S		L		S		15	B			16	B	
				17	T	W	E	E	T		18	P	E	A	L			
19	S		20	K		E			H		21	A		R			E	
22	W	H	I	T	E				23	E	N	D	L	E	S	S		
	E		N		T			M		O		A				S		
24	A	N	G	E	L	E			25	C	R	A	D	L	E			
	R		S		Y					E		Y					D	

JANUARY • 2003

Best South Asian Airline of the year 2002

Best Airline of the year - Central Asia 2001 & 2002



Fly SriLankan Airlines On Business Class to Europe



International award winning airline

	Business Class		Economy Class	
	One Way	Return	One Way	Return
Frankfurt/Paris/Zurich	31,500	62,500	15,500	23,800
London	75,000	117,500	15,500	23,800

- ★ The above fares do not include any taxes
- ★ Stopover in Sri Lanka not permitted on Business class fare except to London
- ★ A peak surcharge of THB3,000 for one way fare & THB5,800 for round trip fare are applicable on Economy class for travel during 10 Dec 2002 - 15 Jan 2003
- ★ Fares valid for travel up to 31 March 2003

SriLankan Airlines flies four times a week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to Colombo - Sri Lanka with immediate connections to Europe/India/ Middle East and Far East on our new wide-bodied Airbus fleet, which has a Personal TV and Phone on every seat back

For more information please contact

SriLankan Airlines Limited

942/33-35 Charn Issara Tower I, Rama IV Rd., Suriyawongse, Bangkok 10500 Thailand

Sales ; Tel. 02-2368451 Fax. 02-2368456 E-mail: bkksales@srilankan.lk

Tktg & Rsvn ; Tel. 02-2368450 Fax. 02-2368456 E-mail: bkktkt-rsvn@srilankan.lk

MEMORIES

Christmas Ball 2002

A great evening under the stars. A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors, especially Carlsberg Beer.



Esarn Food Promotion

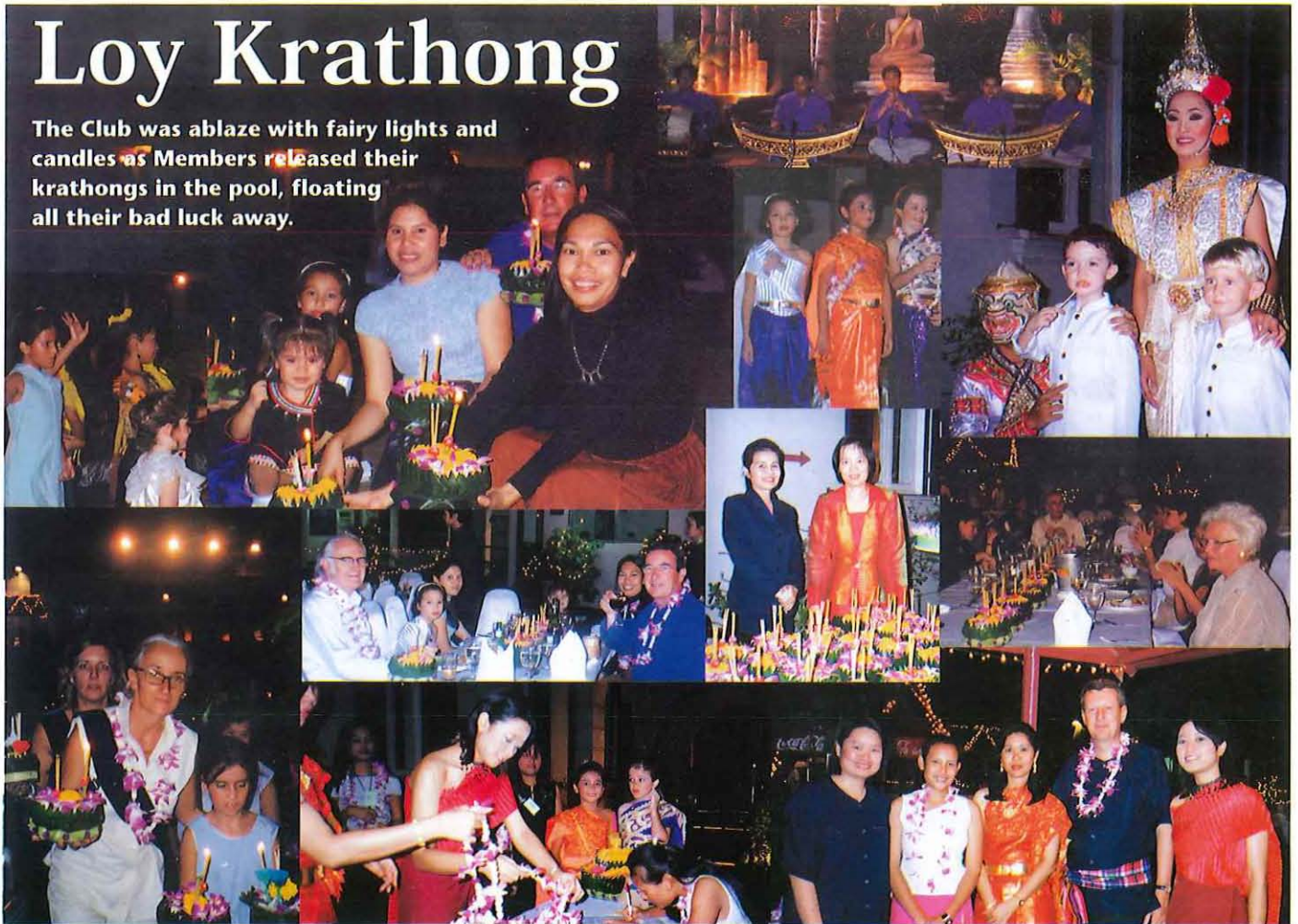
Lord's Dining Room was transformed on 28 November last year for this wonderful night of delicious Northeastern food.



MEMORIES

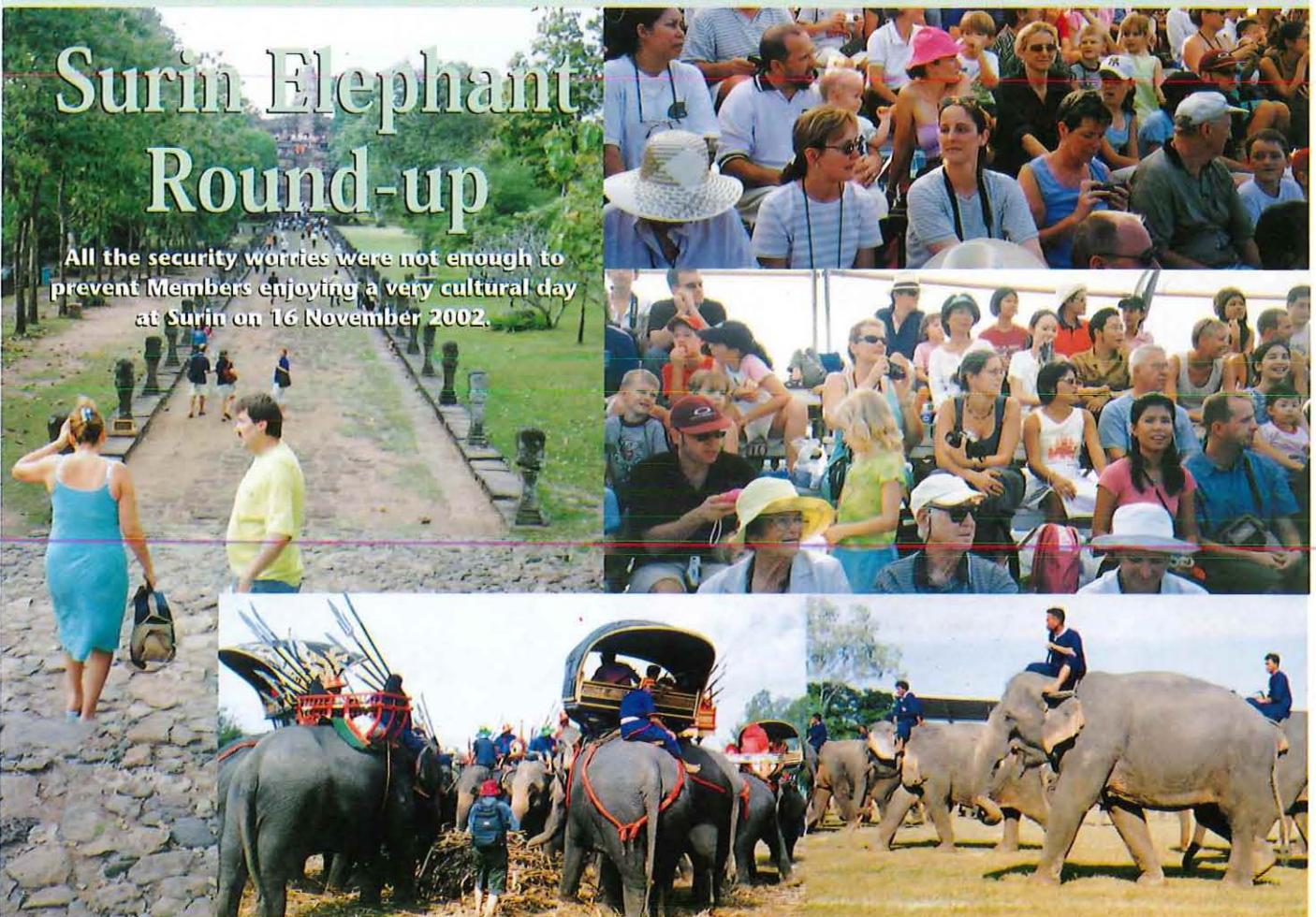
Loy Krathong

The Club was ablaze with fairy lights and candles as Members released their krathongs in the pool, floating all their bad luck away.

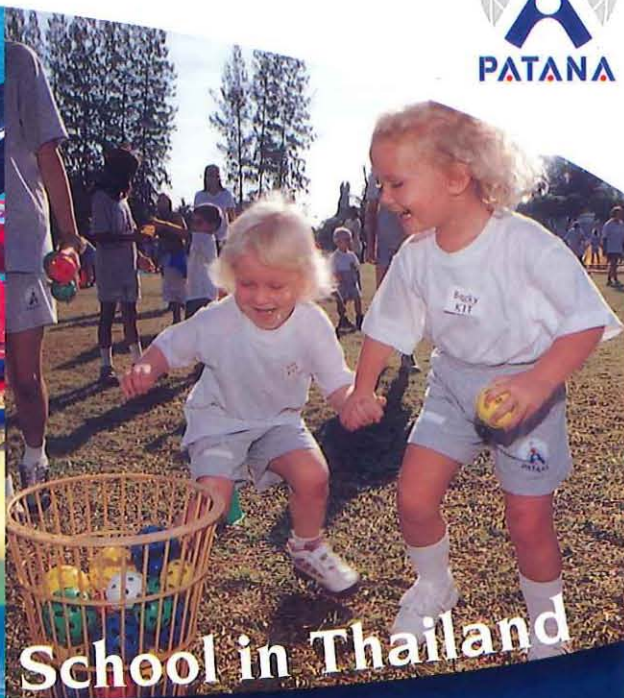


Surin Elephant Round-up

All the security worries were not enough to prevent Members enjoying a very cultural day at Surin on 16 November 2002.



BANGKOK PATANA SCHOOL



The British International School in Thailand

Bangkok Patana School maintains the highest standards of the British curriculum, offering a comprehensive educational experience to children of all nationalities. Ages Nursery to 18+

Contact us for more information:

2/38 Soi Lasalle, Sukhumvit 105, Bangkok 10260

Tel: 0 2398 0200 Fax: 0 2399 3179 Email: reception@patana.ac.th

www.patana.ac.th

Accredited by the European Council of International Schools and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges



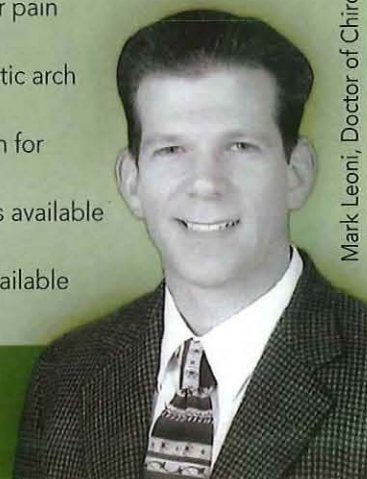
Holistic Health Systems Ltd.

Get fast relief from

- ✓ Lower Back Pain
- ✓ Neck Pain
- ✓ Headaches
- ✓ Tingling and numbness in the arms and legs
- ✓ Shoulder, arm and wrist pain
- ✓ Hip, knee, ankle and foot pain

By appointment only.
Flexible working hours
to accommodate even the
busiest of schedules.

- Chiropractic treatment
- Traditional adjusting techniques
- Gentle techniques for delicate patients
- Acupressure massage
- Fitness consulting
- Diet modification for pain control
- Custom made orthotic arch supports
- Posture re-education for children
- Psychology Referrals available when necessary
- Medical Referrals available when necessary



Mark Leoni, Doctor of Chiropractic (USA)

438/13 Sukhumvit Soi 63 (Soi Ekamai) Bangkok 10110

Telephone (0) 2711 5102 Mobile (0) 1627 0312

Email: leoni@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.thailandchiropractor.com

CALENDAR

BRITISH CLUB SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR - JANUARY 2003

SPORTS

9.00am - midday Squash Coaching
9.00am - 1.30pm BC Swimming Instruction

SPORTS

7.00am - 1.00pm Tennis Team Practice
9.00am - 11.00am Junior Cricket
10.30am - midday Taekwondo
11.00am - 1.00pm Badminton - Soi Nares
2.00pm - 4.00pm Children's Activities
3.00pm - 6.00pm Tennis Mix-in
3.00pm Yoga

SPORTS

8.00am BWG Mahjong
7.00pm - 9.00pm Tennis Team Practice

SPORTS

7.00am Ladies Golf
8.00am - 10.00am Ladies' Tennis
10.30am - 11.30am Aqua Aerobics
11.30am Yoga
2.00pm - 5.30pm Swim with the Bangkok Dolphins
2.00pm - 7.00pm BC Swimming Instruction
7.00pm - 9.00pm Football Training

CHURCHILL BAR ACTIVITIES

6.00pm - midnight Ladies' Night
8.00pm - 11.00pm Friendly Bridge
9.00pm Gentlemen's Spoof

SPORTS

9.30am Aerobics
6.00pm - 9.00pm Tennis Mix-in
6.30pm Cricket Nets

CHURCHILL BAR ACTIVITIES

7.00pm Darts
7.00pm Accumulator

SPORTS

8.00am - 10.00am Ladies Tennis
6.00pm - 9.00pm Squash mix-in
7.00pm - 9.00pm Rugby Training
9.00pm - 10.00pm Hockey Training

SPORTS

9.00am ANZWG Mahjong
3.30pm - 6.00pm BC Tennis Coaching for Children
4.30pm - 5.15pm Mini Squash
5.15pm - 6.00pm Junior Squash
5.00pm Tennis Mix-in
5.30pm Swimming - Junior Squad Training
6.00pm - 7.00pm Adult Tennis
6.30pm - 9.00pm Poolside BBQ
7.00pm Children's Movie Night

January at a Glance

Friday, 10	Wine Tasting
Tuesday, 14	New Members Night
Thursday, 16	European Networking Night
Monday, 20	BC Staff Party
Wednesday, 22	Comedy Movie Night - TBC
30 - 31	Canada Food Promotion

See What's On, page 7 and GM's Message for more details

Sports - Contacts

Aquatics	Nicole Nuttall	0 2300 3272
Badminton	Anant Leighrahathorn	0 2654 0002-29
Bridge	Winlock Hsu/ Charlene Wang	0 2921 6015
Cricket	André Tissera	0 2238 2718-21
Darts	Fitness Centre	0 2234 0247
Football	Martin Conisbee	01 860 4874
Golf	Karen Carter	0 2285 6169
Spoofers	Steve Eaton	0 2237 9262
Rugby	Jon Prichard	0 2662 6376
Scuba Diving	Peter Gary	0 2634 7799
Snooker	Khun Kittisak	01 633 9490
Squash	Peter Corney	01 829 2253
Tennis	Terry Adams	01 639 3856

Loyal Societies

St George's	Angela Stafford	0 2632 0560 x 3037
St Andrew's	Meilan Henderson	0 2259 0586
St Patrick's	Ian Kane	0 2678 1813 x 1738
St David's	Basia Filzek	02 286 1348

Venues

Badminton	Soi Nares, behind Bangrak Police Station
Aerobics	Wordsworth Room
Casuals Football	Colgate Ground, Rama III
Massage	Near the Silom Sala

Opening Times

10.00am - 11.00pm	Churchill Bar
11.30am - 2.00pm	Lords Restaurant (Lunch)
6.00pm - 10.00pm	Lords Restaurant (Dinner)
7.30am - 10.00pm	Poolside Bar
6.00am - 9.00pm	Fitness Centre
9.00am - 6.00pm	Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)

RELAXED REGULARS

Chill out After Christmas

BAR QUIZ

Tuesday, 21 January 2003 at 7.30pm

Come along to Lord's Dining Room for an exciting evening of mental stimulation with Quizmaster Rodney Bain. Each team should have a maximum of 6 participants and a registration fee of B 100 per team player is the price of entry.

GENTLEMEN'S SPOOF

Tuesday Evenings - Churchill Bar

Join the gents on Tuesdays for this spiffing spoofing bar game.

LADIES'S NIGHT

Tuesday Evenings - Churchill Bar

From 6.00pm til midnight, ladies can enjoy any of our cocktails for B 80 only.

TUESDAY BRIDGE

NIGHT - CHURCHILL BAR

We continue to enjoy a friendly game of Bridge every Tuesday evening in the non-smoking area of the Churchill Bar. Refer to the Calendar page for contact details.

BAR ACCUMULATOR

Wednesday Evenings - Churchill Bar

Every member (and spouse) has the chance to win the every-growing cash prize. All you have to do is be in the Bar when your membership number is drawn from the hat. You can't win if you're not there!

WEDNESDAY DART NIGHT -

CHURCHILL BAR

Join the lads and lasses every Wednesday evening in the bar for a friendly game of 'arrows'. Everyone is most welcome, regardless of whether you can hit the board or not!

Friday Night - Children's Movie Night every Friday evening in the Silom sala at 7.00pm. No charge for the kids

PLAY AWAY!

Sunday Afternoons - Silom Room

Play time for children, jointly organised by the British Club and Kids Care. Lots of interesting activities followed by a movie. No charge for this event. Starts at 2 o'clock.

NATIONAL MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS LECTURE

Bang Lamphu - Rise and Fall

Speaker: Edward Van Roy
Date: 23 January 2003
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Auditorium, National Museum Bangkok near Thammasat University Naphrathat Road, across from Sanam Luang

This lecture traces the rise and fall of Bang Lamphu as a stronghold of the Second Kings of the Chakri dynasty over the course of the Ratanakosin era. The lecture is supported by a series of computer-generated historical maps of 18th-19th century Bangkok.

From a small fishing village and paddy field tract, the riverside district north of Bangkok's Front Palace - here referred to as Bang Lamphu for convenience - emerged early in the Ratanakosin era as a fiefdom of the second King.

The subsequent history of that district reflects the changing fortunes of the Front Palace over the course of the Ratanakosin era. Of particular importance were the political eclipse and early death of Prince Wichaichan (1838-1885), Second King during the reign of King Chulalongkorn.

The death of Prince Wichaichan and subsequent elimination of the rank of Second King presaged the rapid transformation of Ban Lamphu. Comprehensive redevelopment of the district under the energetic intervention of King Chulalongkorn ended its status as a royal enclave.

The depredations of subsequent commercialisation, most recently tourism promotion as well as efforts at 'conservation', have obliterated virtually all vestiges of Bang Lamphu's former close association with the Front Palace.

At the Auditorium of the National Museum Bangkok Members and the public are invited and admission is free. Coffee served from 9:30 a.m. For information, contact Ms. Gerda Kassing at 0 2258 8521.

EVOLUTION

metro

MAGAZINE

No101: DECEMBER: 02: URBAN ENERGY

Ananda spa
WIN!
anniversary
Party

B 100.

44% bigger
32 more pages
new look
new attitude
same price
subscribe
now!

Prik Tease

Chilli Peppers
ex-rude boys go holistic

Man of Steel
muscle hunk says
it's all in the mind

Novel Perception?
a fictional tale of
terrorists in Krabi

BOSS LADY
lights up Latin lovers

HIMALAYAN HOLLYWOOD
monk makes movies

metro:urbanenergy

GOLF

British Club Beats GCL For First Time in Nine Years!

It has been a great month of golf for the British Club players. The month started with the Castrol-sponsored Rysome Bowl, followed by the monthly medal and the final of the club matchplay. But special mention must go to the match that we played against GCL (Golfers Cocktail Lounge) who have a reputation for being unbeatable – not any longer! The BC golfers beat the GCL 7 to 6 on a hot December day at Lakeview in Hua Hin. More on that later.



John Pollard receiving the Matchplay trophy

The Rysome Bowl at Bang Poo

The Rysome Bowl, sponsored by Castrol, is one of our major trophies. It is a pairs competition and the format for the day was better ball Stapleford. This is a format that usually sees some very good scoring and this year was no exception.

The turnout on the day was excellent. Unsurprisingly, our numbers were not affected by the running of the Bangkok marathon on the same day!

We were delighted to welcome the seven guests who joined us on the day. Keith Hales from Castrol and his wife Sue, Matt and Marlene, Paul and Sally and Jojo. For those of you who didn't spot the resemblance, Jojo is my identical twin. This caused much confusion as people assumed she was me and launched into conversation wondering why she didn't recognise them!

It was a long hot day out on the course. The pace of play was reasonable if not speedy and we made it round in just over 5 hours. As predicted, there were some very good scores posted and I am happy to report that mine was one of them, having broken 100 for the first time. As we gathered for the customary beer after the game, the results were announced and the prizes presented by Keith Hales from Castrol.

The long drives went to André Tissera and Karen Carter. The near pins went to Karen Holloway on the 4th, Karen Carter on the 8th, André Tissera on the 11th and Brian Baldwin on the 16th. The winners of the technical prizes each received a Castrol umbrella and baseball cap. An umbrella and cap also went to Sally and Paul as our winning guests with a points total of 45.

André Tissera and Mike Staples scored a total of 42 points putting them in third place for the competition. Brian and Orin Baldwin were ahead of them in second with 45 points. The winners of the

Authentic
Italian-
American
Cuisine
From
Little Italy.

"The reasonable prices and enormous portions will be a draw here.."

BK Magazine

"American Italian of the 1930's. A wholesome experience.."

Bangkok Post



**Papa
Alfredo's**
Italian Restaurant

Ground Floor, U Chu Liang Building, Rama 4 Rd., Silom
Tel: (662) 6324043 Fax: (662) 6324042

Rysome Bowl with a total of 49 points were Ray Hughes and Vicky Jones. Ray and I were the only pairing not to play our round together. Perhaps this was the key to our success as we were able to play our own game and not worry about each other.

It was a great days golf. A big 'thank you' to Castrol for their support.

Results

- 1st Ray Hughes and Vicky Jones 49 points
- 2nd Brian and Orin Baldwin 45 points
- 3rd André Tissera and Mike Staples 42 points

November

Medal Royal Lad Krabang

The penultimate medal of the year was played at Royal on a very hot November day. Those of us who are relatively new to Thailand were beginning to wonder if the cool season was a myth!

The course was in excellent condition and we enjoyed a hiccup-free start to our round with all groups being allowed to tee off early. It was nice to see a new medal winner as Orin Baldwin triumphed in C Flight. Edwin Ferner and Brian Baldwin were second and third in the flight. Tom Mackay, who now has such a large collection of medal goblets that he could host a dinner party, won B Flight! The Ashman's made up the rest of the places in B Flight with Barry in second place and Val in third. A Flight went to André Tissera who had a fantastic round in spite of having a raging hangover. Dale Lamb and Brian Brooke were second and third. André continued to reap the benefits of his fantastic round picking up near pins on holes twelve and seventeen. Larry Goodliffe, near pin specialist, was nearest on hole 3. The near pin on seven went unclaimed as no-one made it onto the green. The long drives went to Karen Holloway and Brian Brooke. Congratulations to all the winners.

Match Play Final

At Khao Kheow

The final of the Matchplay competition was played at Khao Kheow on 30 November. The turnout was low, perhaps due to the fact that there are only two people involved in the competition and Khao Kheow is a little further out of Bangkok than most of the courses we play.

It was a stinking hot day... the course was in good condition, although the greens needed a bit of attention and some pin positions were impossible. It was quite a quick round which is always a bonus - that's the 'upside' of KK being half way to Pattaya, it's quiet, even on a week-end.

The final was between John Pollard and Dick Taylor. John played a very steady game - better than handicap until he'd won, after which he 'let himself go' a little and stopped playing 'sensible golf'. The score? Dick was hoping we wouldn't ask - John won by a 'dog licence' - that's 7/6 (for those who remember such a thing) if it's not the biggest margin in club history then it has to be close!

There was also a 'Stapleford' competition being run for club members not in the Matchplay... the ladies off the red tees, the men off the yellow. All the prizes were won by the ladies, since none of the men managed more than 30 points... which tells you something about the advantage the girls get! It's 'interesting' because next year we'll be playing half the monthly medals there... we may need to do something about which tees we play off?

Hua Hin Weekend

Once again we ventured to Hua Hin for the weekend of the Constitution Day Holiday. This year the holiday was on a Tuesday so most of us were limited to just two days golf in Hua Hin. It was a busy couple of days, with a match against GCL as well as the Dee Med Trophy,



Mike and Vicky celebrating with 46 points each

The Ambassadors Cup and the Inaugural Trophy up for grabs. It proved to be a better weekend for the British Club than we had hoped...

Saturday - Lakeview

Match against GCL

As the headline for this month's offering from the BC golf section points out, we beat GCL!!!!!! This is not an achievement that we take lightly and I must say that we are more gracious in defeat than we are in victory. We were certainly not shy about showing just how chuffed we all were to finally win a match against GCL.

The format of the day was a pairs combined Stapleford Matchplay. As we went into the match we were optimistic, but aware that we had never beaten the GCL. As the first results started to come in, it was pretty even. With four matches in it was two victories apiece. Things then seemed to go horribly wrong for the BC golfers. GCL came in with a string of victories and with 10 matches completed they were looking unbeatable,



Vicky winning the Ambassadors Cup

needing only one more point to secure victory. Many of our players then headed back to the hotel assuming the worst. How wrong they were. We won all four of the final matches with Dick Taylor and Nick White giving us the deciding point for a 7 to 6 victory.

The GCL hosted the traditional post match Bar-B-Q that evening and some of our team arrived still believing that we had lost. In fact, Guy Snow, who was filling in for absent Captain Phil Hall, had already composed his losing speech only to have to tear it up and start again! As the SUAL Bell (Shut Up And Listen) was presented to Guy, the crowd went wild – well the crowd of BC Golfers anyway. Well done to the BC golfers who won or halved their matches on the day. They were:



Bridget and Joom about to take off at Majestic Creek

Karen and Andy, Larry and Jo, Ed and Barry, Bridget and Mike, Maya and Lars, David and Lek, David and Max and Nick and Dick. Those who lost did so narrowly with most matches being decided in the final holes. What really shone through on the day was the Ryder Cup style team spirit!

Sunday – Majestic Creek

We arrived at Majestic Creek on the Sunday somewhat jaded after the previous nights celebrations of our victory over GCL. Sorry, I just had to mention it again! The conditions were perfect. Weather benign, if not slightly hot. Fairways like the finest Axminster carpet. Greens in comparison were like a thick shag pile. The ùslam dunkú putting style was to subsequently reap rich rewards – hit it hard and straight! And if you miss, do it quickly.

The Deemed Trophy

The Deemed trophy is the committee versus the members, with the highest average Stapleford points per team determining the winner. Members voiced concerns, before the match started, that the committee had recently strengthened their squad by co-opting new committee members. The committee tried unconvincingly to allay their worries, indicating that such new members were purely to provide extra support for the BCGS to continue its sterling work in organising such a hectic diary of events. After the rounds had finished, imagine the



Guy handing the Inaugural Trophy to Mike Staples

surprise of the members, as one newly co-opted committee member scored 46 points (to cries of 'bandit'). This was followed by a long standing committee member also scoring 46 points (more banditry) These fantastic rounds allowed the committee to run out convincing winners with an average of 40 points to the members 35 points!!

Moving quickly on.....

The Ambassadors Cup

and the Inaugural Trophy

The Ambassadors Cup is contested by those players with a handicap of 24 or greater and the Inaugural Trophy by those with a handicap of 23 or below. This year saw some outstanding scoring with all placed players playing well under their handicap.

I had the round of my life scoring a net 62 and a points total of 46 to win the Ambassadors Cup. Mike Staples was the winner of the Inaugural Trophy with a fantastic six over par round giving him a net 63 and 46 Stapleford points. Second place in the Ambassadors cup went to Barry Ashman with 42 points and Liz Mackay was third with 41 points. The scoring in the Inaugural Trophy was equally impressive with Tom Mackay taking second place on 44 points and Guy Snow finishing third with 41 points. Mike Staples, Larry Goodliffe, Nick White and myself picked up the Near Pins. Joom White and Ed Ashman won the longest drives.

THE RESULTS:

INAUGURAL TROPHY

- 1st Mike Staples 46 points
- 2nd Tom Mackay 44 points
- 3rd Guy Snow 41 points

AMBASSADORS CUP

- 1st Vicky Jones 46 points
- 2nd Barry Ashman 42 points
- 3rd Liz Mackay 41 points

It was a great days golf on a beautiful course. The perfect end to a fantastic weekend. Congratulations to all the winners. See you all in 2003!

Vicky Jones





Exclusive for expatriates!

Do you need to top up your life insurance and critical illness insurance cover during your stay in Thailand ?

You may have some temporary need for additional life insurance and/ or critical illness insurance during your posting in Thailand. However, it is difficult to arrange for additional insurance cover with your usual insurer whilst you are overseas. All you need is a yearly renewable term life insurance cover during your posting here, with the convenience of local service but the security of an international insurer. You also want to obtain the cover at premium rates comparable to that you can obtain at home but has discovered that life insurance and critical illness insurance cover is comparatively much more expensive here in Thailand than at your home country.

Zurich National Life then has the perfect solution for you. We have developed a product specific to the expatriate market where the policy term is only one year and guaranteed renewable each year at your discretion. The requirement for health check is much less stringent and the premium rates are up to 60% cheaper than comparative premium rates offered in Thailand.

For more information, please contact our special authorized representative for the expatriate community;

Mr. Jerome Kelly
Managing Director
Lawton Asia Co.,Ltd.
Tel: 0-2679-1400
Fax: 0-2679-1401
Mobile: 0-1809-1809
E-mail: jerome@lawtonasia.co.th



Zurich National Life Assurance is a joint venture of Zurich Financial Services of Switzerland and National Financial Services Group of Thailand. Zurich operates in over 65 countries and has over US\$ 485 billion of assets under management. It has over 129 years of experience in the insurance field.

Zurich National Life Assurance Co.,Ltd.
Glas Haus Building, 1 Sukhumvit 25, Wattana, Bangkok 10110 Tel : 0-2661-7888

MEMBERS LETTERS

Some recollections of the British Club and the British/ Australian Communities Fifty Years ago.

As a young officer of the Australian foreign service, I arrived in Bangkok in December 1952. This was my first posting overseas and I came to a legation (small embassy) which had only two other Australian staff. I was deputy to the Head of Mission and so, although only a third secretary (the lowest form of diplomatic life), I attended many official Thai functions and entertainments. It was for me an exotic world, far removed from my earlier life growing up in the island state of Tasmania and later in Australia's federal capital, Canberra which had just over 20,000 inhabitants when I joined the Department of External Affairs in March 1949.

Bangkok in 1952, had not yet changed greatly from its pre-World War appearance. There were still many klongs and on narrow streets rickshaws were still being pulled by men, but carried goods and no longer passengers. The three-wheeled pedicab 'saamlaw', taking up to three thin passengers and the more dangerous version with motor bike power were the means of transport for those farang without access to private, company or official cars. Vehicular traffic at most times of day moved at a tolerable pace. I lived above the 'shop' in bachelor's accommodation, which like the legation

office below, had only unreliable electric fans and non-screened windows left open to catch any cooling breeze. This was on Surawong Road, very close to where Soi Patpong(!) is now, but in a suburb of private houses and gardens. It was a treat to experience from time to time air-conditioning in the "Bamboo Bar" at "The Oriental" or in "Chez Eve," a bar which, despite its name, was sedate by today's standards. Remarkably, there were no Thai food restaurants when I arrived. It was available of course from street or klong vendors and a variety was available in some hotels, but the first restaurant was opened in 1954 by the wife of Police General Phao on Ratchadamnoen Ave, opposite the Ratanakosin "the Rat" hotel (now the Royal). A visit to the multi-storied "Hoi Thin Lao" Chinese restaurant in Yaowarat Road (now moved to Thonburi) with local businessmen was a gastronomic adventure, even if I did not fully comprehend the advice that other (?) entertainment was available on the top floor. The Australian National University, Canberra holds a copy of a guide book (in English) to the pleasure parlours of the time. The flesh industry clearly did not begin with the Vietnam War! Apart from the eternal 'wats', the Royal

Palaces, some national monuments, and the majestic Chao Phraya River, did I see sights during my recent visit to remind me of 1952-1954. Not much at all, until I got back to the British Club with my daughter Anne, son in law David Edmonds and two small grandsons. Along the River the French and Portuguese embassies and the East Asiatic Co. were familiar. Also, of course the original part of "The Oriental" and, elsewhere, the RBSC.

While long-housed in its grand compound under the stern eyes of Queen Victoria's statue, the British Embassy's role was by 1952 already in transition from its diplomatic predominance in pre-1941 'Siam'. Nevertheless, the London-based staff was still numerous and its junior members of both genders soon provided me with social companionship. (Other than Australia and India, no other Commonwealth country was yet represented in the tiny diplomatic corps of 23 embassies and legations.).

The successive British ambassadors in my Bangkok Days, Sir Geoffrey Wallinger and Sir Berkley Gage, were dignified figures of a passing age of diplomacy. Their political and commercial/economic deputies (Gordon Whitteridge and Alex Ballantyne) had already served in Bangkok before the Pacific War under the legendary Sir Josiah Crosby. He had been in Siam for most of the 20th Century, but his advice on political and strategic affairs just before the Japanese invasion was out of step with official thinking in Singapore and Whitehall. The Oriental Secretary (it was a long-time ago!) was Douglas C. Rivett-Carnac with the initial "C" standing for Chulalongkorn, since his father had known the Sovereign well.

For royal ceremonial occasions in the daytime, while my ambassador and I suffered in full black evening suits with white tie, the diplomatic staff of the British Embassy wore white uniforms, brass buttons and white helmets surmounted by a metal spike. Rather impressive and cool. Most male Westerners, for everyday attire, favoured stark white cotton or drill trousers with white shirt. In non-airconditioned offices, the wearing of ties could be avoided but needed to be at hand for venturing out on business or, in my case, for contact with Thai officialdom.

My 'boss' was Bert Ballard, first Australian ambassador to Thailand. A kindly man with wide previous overseas experience, I learned much of the diplomatic craft from him. A scholar in the broadest sense, he was the first post-World War II ambassador from any Western country to be able to converse with Thai leaders in their language.

The British and Australian non-diplomatic communities

Apart from a few government advisers, international officials, aid workers, teachers and missionaries, most members of these communities were in commerce, with a few in industry. At the time young men could be recruited in the UK to perform quite humdrum duties, e.g. tellers in the branches of British banks. Salaries and convention did not permit marriage in the first years of careers in Thailand. There were still Britons working in the teak forest concessions of the North and they would appear in Bangkok from time to time, emerging from a romantic and distant world. The Bangkok companies had evocative names such as The Borneo Company, Bombay Burmah, Barrow Brown Co., Chartered Bank and so on.

Presiding over the Community were two figures, different in temperament but unchallenged and unchallengeable. Charles Mabbitt and "Bobby" Fothergill were respectively a seasoned trader (from before the Pacific War) and a retailer of motor vehicles. It is not unfair to say that British ambassadors were regarded as plumed birds of passage – to be respected as representing the young Queen but not taken too seriously over commercial activities within Thailand. On the other hand, from my recollection as a member of the official committee organising a Ball in 1953 to mark Queen Elizabeth's accession to the Throne, the positioning of tables occupied by "Number Ones" in British companies was treated with the importance of diplomatic protocol.

Mabbitt was Chairman of the British Club and, as I noted from the Board in the Club House entrance on my recent visit, in this position for some years before and after my time as a member. He exerted a firm grip on the 'norms' of Club decorum and younger members knew this well.

The Club in 1952 extended for only a small area beyond the Club House and yet my

companions and I found it an important part of our social lives. The film nights were the highlight of the week, even if the technical quality of the black and white English films shown was often less than ideal. Still, the presence of much Singapore beer and cigarette smoke added to the highly convivial atmosphere in a crowded room. Sundays was the time for a long, traditional Indian curry tiffin (lunch), accompanied by beer and followed by soothing gula malacca (sago with golden syrup poured over it). Many of us found that sport/exercise required membership of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club as well for swimming, tennis and cricket. This was cheap and not difficult to obtain. Because I was accredited to Thailand, it was a pleasure to be invited from time to time to play tennis at the Old England Students(Thai) Association. It may come as a surprise that the ONLY seaside resort with accommodation for foreigners in 1952 was Hua Hin, where the Railway Beach Hotel had the atmosphere of a pre-Pacific War world.

When I look at photos taken in those days, many names come back but I will be excused for mentioning only a couple. Bill Brownsey of the Air Booking Centre (Borneo Company), was a highly gregarious and good-natured soul, whose contribution to fellowship was not impaired by returning from leave in the UK with an outgoing bride. "Toni" (J. Antoinette) Osborn, older sister of a colleague of mine in the Australian foreign service, while holding down a responsible position in the Shell Company, was an energetic figure in British community tennis and in the organising of annual social events.

The Australian community was small (120 in the whole of Thailand by the time I left in 1954). I respected those who worked under trying conditions in the first factory of Thai Glass Manufacturers.

Nicholas was another major Australian operation, distributing pharmaceuticals, often by boat, up-country. Australians also worked for international firms such as Singer and Shell, but the figure who stood out was Keith Hyland. Seeing the export potential of duck feathers, Keith established a highly successful business. He later set up a factory in Saigon and received world-wide coverage when he was kidnapped and then released by Saigon river pirates after the payment of a ransom. At the time he was possibly better

known than Jim Thompson whose Thai silk industry was still being established. In the area of international agencies operating in Thailand, the International Civil Aviation Organisation was represented by Group Captain (retired) Stuart A.C. Campbell RAAF. He had earlier set up Australia's first post World War II operations in the Antarctic.

Before the arrival of the Internet, the BBC's world TV service, video cassettes, audible short wave radio and airmail editions of international newspapers and magazines, the lot of this once young Australian in Bangkok was much improved by membership of the British Club. I remember it with appreciation.

Pierre Hutton

Footnote: While the sections on Thailand are directed principally to Australia's official presence from earlier times, there is also a description of Bangkok in the early Fifties in my book After the Heroic Age ... And Before Australia's Rediscovery of Southeast Asia, Griffith University, Brisbane – 1997. A copy should be available from the Australian Embassy.

Bangkok

SPEAK THAI with CONFIDENCE



Learn to speak, read and write Thai with a personal Thai Teacher

Jentana & Associates has been successfully teaching Thai Language To foreign business people and visitors to Thailand for over 18 years.
Contact Jentana for more information on study options and fees.



Jentana & Associates

5/8 Soi Sawatdii Sukhumvit 31
Klongtoey-Neua, Watanna,
Bangkok Thailand 10110
Tel: (66-2) 260-6138-9 Fax: (66-2) 259-8580
Mobile: (01) 808-5180
Email: jentana@loxinfo.co.th



Dulwich International College



British education at one of Asia's finest boarding schools



Co-educational day and boarding...Excellent purpose-built facilities...Close links with Dulwich College, London...Active, caring boarding programme...Safe, beautifully landscaped campus...From 18 months to 18 years old...Nursery to Year 13...IGCSE and IB...Small class sizes...Boarding from 9 years old...New Primary School...
Only 80 minutes from Bangkok!

Dulwich International College is an IB World School, accredited by WES, and a member of ECIS, FOBISSEA and COBISec

Bangkok: tel. 0 2512 0466-7, fax. 0 2512 0468; Phuket: tel. 0 7623 8711-20, fax. 0 7623 8750

Email: info@dulwich-phuket.com

<http://www.dulwich-phuket.com>

SPOOFING

“For Scotland, Pissamai & The Spoof!”

To many ‘Spoofing’ is some weird coin game played by guys in the Churchill Bar each Tuesday. To the more knowledgeable it is a contest of wits (and a bit of luck) that has its origins in Victorian England, and is currently played in over a dozen countries worldwide. To the really enlightened, Thailand has Asia’s longest running school ...

The Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers.

It should be no surprise then that twenty-one Gentlemen, one even flying in from Auz for the occasion, attended Spoofing’s fourteenth Thai National Championships held in the Lord’s Dining Room on 4 December. In a mixture of Black Tie and National ‘dress’, these gentlemen gamed bravely for over two hours to bring forth eight contestants for the Semi-Final.

A welcome interlude to the intensity of the game, dinner was served and Khun Boonlert and his BCB team brought forth a fantastic meal of Avocado with Smoked Salmon, Beef Wellington and, of course, Apple Pie. Dinner was also the period for toasts, and following both loyal toasts, ‘Absent friends’ remembered fondly past-secretary Nicholas Lynx-Lomonde who passed away this year.

Suitably refreshed, the Chairman ‘Swampy’ announced that the evening had raised 19,000 Baht for the Pissamai Fund, the BCB’s own charity, and play recommenced.



The eight soon became two, and the final was a head-to-head with the winner being the first to win four games. The finalists each picked a ‘second’ to give advice, and, either accepting or ignoring said advice, the final was on. In any game there can only be one winner, and the 2002 Thai National Champion is Keith Cronshaw, a Scotsman (but allegedly from Manchester). The loser is, by tradition, ‘Unknown’!

With the proceedings almost at an end, the Chairman ordered the port to be served.

The Enforcer

Spoof is played most Tuesdays in the Churchill Bar from 8.30pm. All gentlemen are welcome.



BRITISH CLUB CENTENARY

2003 at a Glance

Supplied by Sarah Allen

January

Monday 20 - Staff Outing

- 1 - Public Holiday (T & E)
- 13 - School Starts
- 16 - Teachers' Day (T)
- 25 - Australian Family Day

February

Saturday 18 - BC British Street Party
21-23 - Wine Trip to Burma

- 1-3 - Chinese New Year
- 15 - New Zealand Ball
- 17 - Maka Bucha Day (T)

March

Food Promotion (tbc) - Food of the
Century
Sunday 16 - BC Tennis Championships

- 8 - St. David's Ball
- 22 - St. Patrick's Ball

May

Wednesday 23 - BC
Centenary Book Launch
18-20 - Rugby Tournament

- 6 - Chakri Day (7 Holiday)
- 13-16 - Songkran



Thursday 15 - Exhibition of Photography
16-18 - Khao Yai Trip

- 1 - May Day (UK)
- 1 - National Labour Day (T)
- 2 - Early Holiday (Schools)
- 3-5 - May Squash Tournament
- 5 - Coronation Day (T)
- 15 - Visakha Bucha Day
- 17 - British Embassy Ball

June

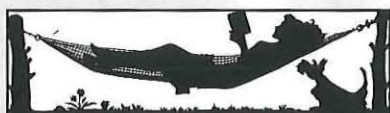
Friday 2 - Theme Dinner

- 6 - Last Day of School

**July**

No events scheduled

- 1 - Mid-Year Day (Banks)

**August**

BC Sports Camp

- 12 - Mother's Day, H.M. The Queen's
Birthday (T)

September

Saturday 13 - Family Sports
Championships

**October**

BC Treasure Hunt
Saturday 11- BC Pink & Black Rugby Ball
Wednesday 15 - Trafalgar Night

- 5-14 - Vegetarian Festival, Phuket
- 23 - Chulalongkorn Day

November

Sunday 2 - Guy Fawkes Night
Saturday 8 - Fashion Show
14-16 - Surin Elephant Round-up
Saturday 8 - Loy Kratong

- Phloenchit Fair (tbc)
- 29- St. Andrew's Ball (Dance Practices on
3, 10, 17, 24 & 26)

December

Saturday 13 - Centenary Gala Dinner

- 4 - Centenary Spoofing Championships
- 5 - Father's Day, H.M. The King's Birthday (T)
- 10 - Constitution Day (T)
- 25 - Christmas Day
- 31 - New Year's Eve



OPEN FOR ENROLMENT NOW

SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Shrewsbury International School Bangkok is accepting applications for enrolment for the academic year commencing September 2003.

Under the proven stewardship skills of its Headmaster, Stuart Morris, MA, Shrewsbury International School Bangkok is committed to the personal development of every pupil in a caring environment that brings out the best within each child.

Shrewsbury International School Bangkok is a new, riverside school (located near Sathorn Bridge) for children aged 3-18 years. It has been established in partnership with 450-year-old Shrewsbury School in England.

Shrewsbury International School Bangkok aims to prepare Thai and international pupils for admission to the world's top universities.

For information, please contact Khun Mem at (662) 231 5805-9.

E-mail: enquiries@shrewsburythailand.com
www.shrewsburythailand.com





Put yourself in our hands

At Transpo, caring is what it is all about.



THE smallest things can make the biggest difference. Transpo has spent over 25 years in Thailand building a reputation for confident handling of the most delicate concerns. This means you can relax, knowing we won't break your trust – or anything else, for that matter.

Because when it comes to caring, we've got it all wrapped up.

Transpo International Ltd.
134/28-32 Soi Athakravi 3, Rama IV, Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Tel: (66-2) 259-0116 ext. 222 · Fax: (66-2) 258-6555
E-mail: info@transpo-intl.com · Website: www.transpo-intl.com

Cambodia · China · Hong Kong · Indonesia · Japan · Laos · Malaysia · Philippines · Singapore · South Korea · Thailand · Vietnam