



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

OUTPOST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

BCB BALUT ROLLS THE DICE

...and wins!

TASTY NEW BITES

Wine in Britannia?!

LOOKING BACK

Christmas at the Club

TRAVELS

A Himalayan Birthday

SPOTLIGHT

Tracy Cosgrove



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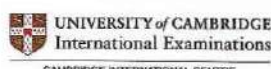


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Contents



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OUTPOST

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Opinions expressed need not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at time of press. Outpost welcomes contributions from members. Please email them to the editor at reid@veritasgraphics.com. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the Publisher.

REPORTINGS

03 Letter from the Chair
Club Opening Hours.

04 House & Grounds
The monthly report on
Maintenance and Development.

05 Bazza's Banter
Letter to the Editor

06 What's Happening in January

07 Tasty New Bites

LOOKING BACK

08 Wine Tasting

09 Christmas Ball

10 Caroling around the Club

11 Kids' Christmas Ball

ON THE ROAD

12 Harrow Fair

13 Ploenchit Fair

SPOTLIGHT

14 Tracy Cosgrove

CLUB FEATURES

16 Past Participle

18 A Birthday in the Himalayas

THE CALENDAR

20 December at the Club
So many dates, so little time.

CLUB BENEFITS

22 Reciprocal Club:
Jakarta International Club

SPORTS

24 Sports & Leisure

25 Fight Night

26 Squashy Bits

28 Golf

30 Tennis

FUN AND GAMES

32 Balut

33 Sudoku

NOW SHOWING

34 Monday Night Club
Doctor Who

THE CLUB AT HOME

36 Khun Laak's
On the Menu

40 Susie's
Kids Korner



FRONT COVER

Lyla Van Es, one of the stars of this year's BCB Balut championship team, brings home the trophy from the 29th STC Interport Balut Competition held in Kota Kinabalu Borneo.

H.R.H Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Cup



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REPORTINGS

JANUARY 2010 » OUTPOST « 3

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Jonathan Truslow
Chairman - General
Committee 2009/2010

A Happy New Year to all our members. I hope everyone enjoyed a merry and peaceful Christmas and is feeling ready to celebrate the achievements and face the challenges of the coming year.

It should be a memorable year for the British Club as we mark the 100th anniversary of our Clubhouse. Barry is planning a series of special events in March/April, hopefully with some big name entertainers, to help us celebrate this important milestone. Check out "Bazza's Banter" for news of these events over the coming weeks. John Boisclair has been working hard to get the building and its outlets in good shape for the centenary, and progress on this front is detailed in his report. I would add that we have received a great deal of positive feedback from members on the refurbished Verandah and would like to thank all the management and members who worked on this project.

This year, the Club will again host the Interport Balut Championships in November, having won the 2009 competition at the Sabah Golf & Country Club. Our hearty congratulations go to the Club's Balut players on this great achievement. Members may recall that we were asked to host the 2008 event as a newcomer to the tournament circuit, but now we have earned the right to host the event as reigning champions!

One of the challenges facing the Club is an overhaul of the management structure. As you all know, we have operated without a CEO for most of 2009. While the management team and GC members have worked hard to cover the gaps, important areas such as planning, marketing, development of internal systems and staff training and development have not received as much attention as they warrant. The Club has now signed a contract with Opus Recruitment Ltd to identify a new CEO. This will involve the Club in some expense, but the GC felt that employing external professional assistance was essential, given that the previous two incumbents lasted such a short time. We hope to have identified a candidate early in 2010, ready to start working with the new GC in April.

Resolution of the problems with the playing surface of the tennis courts is another major challenge, again detailed in John's report. The GC will set up a working group to review the options available to us, so that work can commence as soon as possible in the New Year.

So, please join in the celebrations... and help work on the challenges – let us make 2010 a great year for the British Club!

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah

11am - 2pm (Mon. - Thurs.)
5pm - 10pm (Mon. - Thurs.)
11am - 10pm (Fri. - Sun. and Public Holidays)

Neilson Hays Coffee Shop

9am - 6pm (Tues.-Sun.)

Fitness Centre 6am - 10pm (Mon.-Fri.)

Churchill Bar

10am - 11pm

Fitness Centre 6am - 9pm (Sat.-Sun.)

Poolside Bar

7am - 10pm
Last food orders - 9.30pm

Thai Massage 9am - 5pm (Tues.-Sun.)

HOUSE & GROUNDS

The monthly report on Maintenance and Development



As I write this report, I can see from the office window the new roof sheeting being completed on the Clubhouse annexe. Other smaller areas of roofing needing repair should also be completed by mid December. The Clubhouse kitchen has just been installed with a new extract fan, which means that the ladies in the office have stopped listening to the continuous rattling of the old one that had reached the end of its efficient life several years ago.

The Men's Changing Room has been in use since 29 November, but we were not happy with the lockers and instructed the contractor to make various modifications. These are now complete, and Reed should be able to allocate them to members. I would welcome members' feedback on this project and, as always, will consider any constructive suggestions. If the fans in the toilet do not deter the mosquitoes, we will install screens on the louvered windows. We would particularly like to know how our lady members regard the décor, so we can take their comments into account when planning the work in the Ladies Changing Room. We will start on the redesign of the fitness centre shortly.

The work in the Verandah and Churchill Bar is now substantially complete. The Verandah could do with some additional pictures, but these are proving difficult to source. In the Churchill Bar, a handrail will be added to the entrance steps on the right-hand side. The steps themselves now comply with British building regulations. At the moment, this is probably the limit on the provisions we can make for the elderly. The swing door we have installed on the left-hand side of the bar, for access to the kitchen by the bar staff, does not strictly comply with British means-of-escape requirements, but does provide a second exit in the event of a fire. At the same time as this work was being carried out, the corridor floor that had been damaged by termites was replaced with a concrete slab and parquet flooring. All of this work was carried out at night to minimize disruption and involved some careful planning. The two contractors who did the work are to be congratulated for the efficient and tidy way in which they managed these relatively tricky operations. The notice boards will be replaced early next year.

On the back lawn area, we have recently ordered side boarding for the multi-purpose court to stop balls exiting into the undergrowth and to speed up the rate of play. Certain modifications and improvements to the cricket nets are also under consideration. Some of these would improve the safety of the players.

Consideration and investigation continues of the contractor's proposal for remedying the defects on the tennis courts. The method proposed by the contractor involves the laying of a 50mm (average) layer of asphalt (tarmac) onto the concrete slab with a geo-textile membrane underneath it.

The membrane is essential to prevent any joints and cracks in the concrete from inducing cracks in the asphalt above. The work involved is a major operation, in which almost 170 cubic metres of tarmac would be trucked onto the premises and laid to very precise levels on the concrete. The fencing would be taken down to enable access, and it is quite probable that some damage would be done to the paved areas in the course of this major operation. On completion, any damage would have to be repaired. The costs and disruption to the Club would be appreciable, and we are therefore being necessarily cautious, as 100% success can never be guaranteed. We are receiving independent professional advice on the technical issues and also considering the alternatives.

We intend to continue to take a detailed look at safety issues, and in doing so, we have recently been in touch with certain members who have, in the past, complained about the non-adherence to British standards of health and safety, and to the provisions for the disabled. We will be upgrading our facilities wherever physical and financial constraints permit. One such improvement will be made soon to the ramped entrance to the Silom Sala from the car park. The gate is almost permanently left open and enables small children to go hurtling down the ramp into the path of members' cars. A new fence will be installed so that the exit is alongside the shrubs. Following an accident to a member's son, the gate behind the Silom Sala, which prevents small children straying from the children's pool into the large pool, will now be permanently padlocked. If a member wishes to go into the children's area with a large buggy or wheelchair, the staff in the Silom Sala will be pleased to open the gate upon request.

Our maintenance staff continues to replace old and broken electrical fittings. I apologise to the Squash Section that we still have not labelled all the switches and controls, but we are currently awaiting delivery of a suitable labelling device. There have been complaints about the noise from the A/C compressor located behind the massage room. We will arrange for this to be moved.

The pest management company continues with the monitoring of termite activity. The remaining activity in the Verandah should now have been eliminated. The floors were treated before installation of the new teak finish, and a nest was discovered behind the bar and disposed of when replacing the shelves. The front lawn area adjacent to the Suriwongse Sala was treated with chemical, as there had been serious termite activity there for some time. At the moment, the general situation still appears to be under control.

All for now,

John Boisclair
Development & Facility Manager

BAZZA'S BANTER



Dear Members,

Before all else, from the entire Club staff and myself, we wish you a very happy and prosperous new year ahead! I hope you all had a great festive season wherever you celebrated it.

For us here at the Club, we had a blast! This year's Christmas activities were very busy. Last night, we held four functions here at the Club: the spoofing Championships in the Churchill, St David's Society in the Suriwongse room, Khun Burind's party in the Wordsworth and Khun Paniti in the Verandah with another party, plus over 200 folks on the Back lawn for the Celebration of Christmas with Shrewsbury School. I would like to thank Shrewsbury's Heather Preen, who coordinated this event to make it such a success. It was a new, less formal format, and the Back lawn was packed. Well done to Somboon and his team for such great work on such a busy day. The Club was really buzzing with atmosphere.

During November and December, the Club's catering and membership departments were also very busy catering at Ploenchit Fair, which I think was one of the best – really good fun! We catered four nights at Alliance Francaise for The Blood Brothers Show, Harrow International School, British Embassy and lots more. At the time of writing this, Christmas Day is looking great with over 200 bookings, and over 140 for the New Year's cruise.

The Christmas Ball was a great night, and feedback was fantastic. Around 50 members made it for breakfast at 2am, and the last member left the Club at 5.15am! Well done to the Club staff who did a brilliant job and worked so hard. Many staff slept only a few hours, as we were open as per normal the following day, and we had three more Christmas parties to cater. Mark the date in your diary for the British Club Ball 2010 – coming up on 11

December 2010. Bookings are being taken now, so please see Barry for more information.

Looking forward to January, please don't forget that the Club will be closed on Monday, 11th January, for the annual staff party.

In January, we have tickets booked for Green Day in concert at IMPACT Muang Thong Thani Arena. Tickets can be purchased now at the Club.

Looking further ahead, we are planning to have the band M People here in concert on 26th February. This should be a great night – M People were one of the hottest British bands from the 90s, and this will be their first concert here in Thailand.

Last year, we catered over 350 private parties for members and over 120 Club events. We are already looking for new events to add to the Club's busy calendar. Late last year, the Verandah received a makeover and brand new furniture added, the Churchill Bar had changes and repairs made and the corridor floor was repaired. The Clubhouse notice boards are next to be done, the children's playground to be repaired and a new men's changing room to be constructed at Poolside. All in all, the repairs look really good, and the Club is once again beginning to come into shape. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Clubhouse, we have a range of new events planned throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing you around the Club in the near future.

Regards,
Baz

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Much more than just the BC masseur

As we all know, Khun Champen and his wife provide the massage service at the Club and have done so for many years. What many Club members may not know is that Khun Champen is also very adept when it comes to back pain alleviation – certainly in my case.

From time to time, I suffer from pinched nerve-related lower-back pain, caused by aggressive scrummaging during my rugby-playing days; enough so as to end my tennis-playing. After numerous hospital visits without success at alleviating the problem, I have visited farang, Japanese and Thai chiropractors over the years. They have managed to get me going again, usually after a number of visits.

Eventually, I decided to try Khun Champen. Placing his hand on the painful part of my lower back (because he is blind), I explained that I was in pain. After an hour of focused massage, I found that by the next day, the pain had gone; and I was able to resume playing tennis again... until the next time! Again, Khun Champen was able to get me up-and-running, faster and far cheaper than all the chiropractors that I had seen before.

So, in addition to giving great massages, he may also be able to help people with back pain. Give him a try! If it works for me, who knows, it may work for others. And no harm done if it doesn't work.

Regards,
Terry Adams (A45)

COMING UP IN JANUARY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1st

Recovery Day and Polar Swim

Yes, we have really gone nuts! We really are going to COOL down the pool with lots of ice for the British Club's – and Bangkok's – third polar swim! There will be medals for all participants, as well as a hot drink to warm you up after your swim. We will also have a special discount on our all-day breakfast and a special New Year's buffet. Khun Suzy will also be along with lots of really COOL activities at Poolside, and later in the afternoon, we will show some family-friendly movies in the Suriwongse Room. Keep your eyes peeled around Poolside – you just may see a few penguins and snowmen walking around the pool deck! Who says all the fun stops after New Year's? Come along for a day of fun for the whole family. There is no cost for the event, but all extra food and beverage will be charged to your member's account. To book, please sign up at reception or send a fax or email to the Club. For further information, please contact Khun Amnaji, Rit, Reed or Barry.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1st

New Year's Day Carvery

Celebrate the New Year with our special Verandah carvery, available from 11.30am until 3pm. The cost is 400 baht for adults and 200 baht for children, including a choice of soup of the day, a selection of salads, three roast meats, a selection

of vegetables and potatoes, all rounded off with a selection of homemade desserts and breads. The price includes soft drinks for the children. To book, call to the Verandah directly, or send a fax or email to the Club.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th

Green Day Live In Bangkok

We have booked a limited amount of tickets to see Green Day, live in Bangkok. The concert takes place at IMPACT Arena Muang Thong Thani. Transport leaves from the Club at 7pm, doors open at the arena at 7.30pm, and the concert starts at 8.30pm. The tickets are in standing zone F1 and sitting zone SC. All tickets cost 3,100 baht and includes transport to/from the British Club. Please book early to avoid disappointment. For further info, please contact Khun Apple or Barry. To book, send an email or fax to the Club, or sign up at the Clubhouse reception.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17th

Doctor Who – The End of Time

Watch the finale of all finales – the completion of five years of "new" Doctor Who and the start, perhaps, of another generation. With special guest star Timothy Dalton and starring Catherine Tate, John Simms, Bernard Cribbins and David Tennant, as well as a special appearance by Matthew Robert Smith.

TASTY NEW BITES

A HISTORY OF ENGLISH WINE, PART 1

By Jeremy Watson, Secretary of the Club's Wine & Food Society

English wine is as old as the English hills. Well, not quite – *Vitis vinifera* did not grow on them as a native plant as it did in North America and Russia. The first vines to grow in England were brought over from Gaul by the soldiers and administrators, who, for 300 years, occupied the most northerly province of the Roman Empire, which they called Britannia. They were of the wine-grape variety, from which, a few Romans made wine for drinking at home. They were grown in the open air in the gardens of villas and farmhouses to produce grapes to supplement the large quantities shipped in, as the natives of the island had done before them, from Aquitania (the modern Bordeaux region), Northern France and Germany. Such viticultural activities were not on any large scale and were in no sense commercial. There are signs that there was a vineyard at Bungay in Suffolk and another on the Sussex Downs near Chichester at East Dean and another at Ightham in Kent.



In AD90, the Emperor Domitian issued an edict forbidding the natives living in Roman provinces – though not Roman citizens – from planting new vineyards on land that was their property, but there was nothing to stop them continuing to cultivate vineyards they had already planted. The ban remained in force for almost 200 years. When Marcus Aurelius became emperor in AD276, he had the greatest difficulty in holding the Empire together. He needed all the support he could muster from his provincial subjects in suppressing the claims of rival emperors. One of the ways he used to gain the support was by lifting all former restrictions on the planting of vines and the making of wine. In the year AD280, he announced that Domitian's ban was at an end. He allowed the natives of Gaul, Spain and Britain (Britannia and Brittany) to have vines and make wine, and for a hundred years before the Roman legions left in AD397, it was fully permissible for the natives of Britannia to plant vineyards and make wine. Vineyards like the one at North Leigh near Witney in Oxfordshire can still be seen from excavations of the terracing there.

The civilisation built up so painstakingly by the wine-loving Romans was brutally demolished by the hordes of barbarous Jutes, Angles and Saxons that poured in between AD449 and AD590. Those Christian Britons who managed to escape being slaughtered retreated to Wales and the far west of the country, which was fast becoming "England", taking with them their wine drinking and wine-growing traditions. After Augustine's conversion of the English from Celtic to Roman rites, the monastic ideal took root in England. Self-supporting religious orders were formed in large numbers, each growing their own fruit and vegetables, breeding fish, and making their own wine for use in the Mass, for their refreshment after it and

for entertaining distinguished visitors and itinerant preachers. This gave a new fillip to English viticulture.

In the twelfth century, William of Malmesbury looked back on the Anglo-Saxon scene in his Latin Chronicle of the Kings of England. "The vale of Gloucester", he wrote, "yields plenty of corn and fruit and no county in England has so many or so good vineyards as this, either for fertility or for sweetness of the grape. The wine has in it no unpleasant tartness or eagerness, and is little inferior to the French for its sweetness".

The Normans, unlike the previous conquerors of England, were Christians, and their conquest did not involve the destruction of monastery vineyards and castle wineries. When they came to the area around Ely, they found so many vines that they called it L'Isle des Vignes and left them to grow and ripen as they had already done for so long. The arrival of the Frenchmen signalled the planting of vines by nobles, farmers and monks, more intensely than ever. During the reign of William the Conqueror, churches, monasteries and convents were built all over England, each with a corner of land set apart for the culture of vines and wine-grapes, with the Normans introducing French viticultural traditions.

(To be continued)

The Club's Wine & Food Society, aka the F&B Section, meets every 2-3 months to enjoy different venues in Bangkok (Silom, Surawongse, Sathorn catchment areas) for good company, food, and wine. This includes, of course, our own Club when a guest chef will work with our own F&B Team. Further details can be obtained from Warwick Newton by email to warwick_newton@hotmail.com and from Jeremy Watson, jeremyf.watson@hotmail.com.

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WINE TASTING



The big Christmas wine tasting took place at the Club on Friday, 20th November, with over 160 members attending, making it one of our best yet. This year, we had nine wine companies presenting an amazing array of wines for members to sample at a wide range of prices. Italthai also brought along the first batch of Beaujolais Novae 2009 straight out of customs for our members to taste on the first day of launching here in Thailand. All companies did brisk business with members eager to snap up pre-Christmas bargains. Paradox, the wine accessory company, did a roaring trade as well. We also had jewellery from Eve Shaw and Arlani Design on hand, which made for great Christmas presents. Khun Laak created some great Christmas snacks, as well as a turkey and baked ham carvery... and, of course, this year's batch of mince pies, straight from the Club's ovens. After the tasting, many members stayed on and kept the Club's outlets busy for the night.

CHRISTMAS BALL

This year's Christmas Ball took place on a nice and cool balmy night under the stars of Bangkok on 9th December and was attended by 180 members and their guests. The British ambassador and his wife, as well as the Canadian ambassador with his wife and daughter, also attended the ball.

Not the biggest of balls; in fact, one of the smallest, but, boy, did we have fun. Members were treated to a welcome cocktail party with canapés and open bar for an hour, followed by a traditional four-course Christmas dinner, catered once again by the Shangri-La hotel (along with some of the BC's famous mince pies!). A half a bottle of wine per person and free-flowing Tiger Draught was on hand all night. Music was by Major Somkiat and the Thai Army band, followed by Paul Jackson's brilliant disco until 3am. Admission to the ball included a full breakfast at 3am. Members could also win one of 40 fantastic prizes simply by having the lucky ticket number. The main prize of the evening was a return ticket to London sponsored by Jet Airways, and the big winner was Club member Pippa Harker. Second prize was a beautiful hamper of smoked salmon, Canadian whisky, wine, beer and other Canadian goodies provided by the Canadian ambassador and was won by John Harker... Pippa's husband! In total, the Harker's table won 4 of the 40 available prizes!! Other prizes were donated by Shangri-La Hotel, B2S, BNH, Suanthip Vana Resort and many more generous folks.

The event wrapped up at around 4am. Well done to Khun Somboon and his team who supported the event throughout the night and were back to work at 8am. Yes, they had three hours sleep before coming back on duty, as we had another three events to cater the next day. Hard work, but great fun and a lovely way to celebrate Christmas, which is the best time of year.

All in all, a great night! Let's hope that we can get more members at next year's ball — the only ball to be held in the under the stars of Bangkok... and a bargain to boot!



CAROLING AT THE CLUB

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS UNDER STARLIT SKIES

By Heather Preen, Shrewsbury International School



A cool, starry night, flickering candlelight and the festive aroma of mulled wine provided the stunning backdrop for a joyous Christmas carol service on Wednesday, 9th December.

For the third year, the choir and orchestra of Shrewsbury International School led the entertainment with classical pieces and modern favourites before the audience joined in with a medley of Christmas carols.

Mr Jonathan Truslow, Committee Chairman, and Mr Stephen Holroyd, Principal of Shrewsbury, welcomed the audience of some 200 people, including parents, students and staff from Shrewsbury, as well as British Club members. A senior quintet, led by award-winning violinist Sarah Kwan, played the 2nd and 3rd movements of Bach's Quintet in D Major, and later, Year 12 student Phoebe Savvides took to the podium to read a festive poem.

And there were plenty of opportunities for the audience to join in the singing of lots of well-loved carols. The evening ended, of course, with a rousing rendition of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".



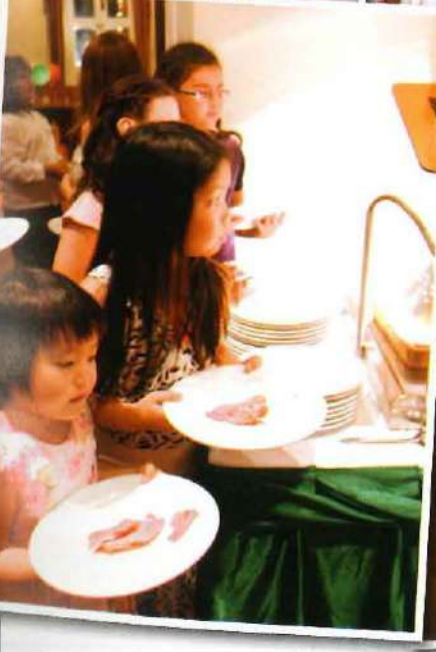
KIDS CHRISTMAS BALL

The festive season got off to a great start with a Christmas ball for the Club's younger members on Friday, 4th December, and also Friday, 11th December, for 60 children from Bangkok Patana School. Overall, 100 children attended the balls.

The evenings started off quite sedately – well, sort of – in the Wordsworth Room, where the kids tucked into canapés, chicken nuggets, mini sausages, pizzas and more goodies, all washed down with "mocktails" of cranberry, kiwi and strawberry juice.

At 7pm, the kids were allowed in to the Suriwongse Room, which had been brilliantly transformed by Khun Awe and her team, complete with a sleigh and Santa's grotto. Suzie entertained with Santa's Jingle Bells Disco. Tables were festively decorated with Christmas crackers, party poppers and lots more. Dinner was traditional Christmas fare... but nary a horrible Brussels sprout in sight!

Santa visited and was mobbed and robbed of his gifts. The ball wound down at around 10pm, although the children were eager for more. Just wait, kids, there's always 2010's ball!



The Club's catering and membership teams were kept busy in November. We had booths at Harrow Fair, Ploenchit Fair, and Bangkok Community Theatre's performance of Blood Brothers at Alliance Francaise.

If you have any ideas of great events for the Club's catering to attend to in the future, please let us know. We are already booked in January for both the NIST International Day and the Silom Road street party. Hope to see you... on the road!

PLOENCHIT FAIR



TRACY COSGROVE

By Jim Pollard



Award-winning ("Scotswoman of the Year") Tracy Cosgrove began helping disadvantaged children in Thailand – her adopted country of residence – in the late 1990s. But in recent years, the extent of her charitable work has grown dramatically. A widow, originally from Manchester, with two teenage children of her own, she now helps care for thousands of youngsters both Thai and Burmese.

Tracy, 44, is a no-nonsense woman with a maternal instinct for the well-being of children, and she has a powerful drive and optimistic outlook that have enabled her to raise considerable sums to set up and fund about half a dozen day-care centres and orphanages. In the aftermath of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, she organised and donated over £1,000,000 worth of brand new goods to the Thai Social Welfare Director General, including donations of clothing from Harrods and Yoko Ono designer wear.

Her first venture was supporting Burmese boys at a temple in central Bangkok. There are 75 boys at this facility, aged from five to eighteen, most of them the offspring of migrant workers. She currently has built and supports two other nurseries for children of Thai construction workers – one recently opened down by the Chao Phraya River at Klong San and another at Naklua, near Pattaya.

The first provides day-care for almost a dozen toddlers less than four years of age, plus another 20 kids in the afternoon after they return from local schools. The second, in Naklua, caters mainly for kids of poor Isaan construction workers. Both of these facilities were erected by construction companies, such as K-Tech, Bouygues Thai and Raimon Land, who "recognized that building nurseries at worksites where hundreds of construction labourers lived boosted workers' peace of mind and productivity", Tracy says.

She admits it was curiosity about the living conditions of workers that caused her to follow trucks packed with labourers from Isaan to find out "how their children were coping". What she found surprised her – at least 1,000 children living in camps for construction workers on major sites in and around Pattaya. So, in Feb 2007, she rang a manager that she knew at K-Tech and told him their work camp needed drains and a nursery. Tracy says that the company bosses were very open and agreed to all her suggestions. They spent 700,000 baht on the nursery, which was built for free by the labourers themselves. Other firms such as Electrolux Orange and Westwools Australia agreed to donate appliances and carpeting. Tracy then continued with funding the nursery until it closed in early 2009.

"They took their corporate responsibility to a new level with the building of the nursery [in Pattaya]," she said in an interview in early 2008. "Hopefully, that will become a standard; it will be better than them hanging about in a tin shack, or playing in sewerage outside."

Tracy told of hearing a baby crying at one work camp she was visiting recently in Pattaya. She first thought it was a dog whining until she realized it was a baby left alone in a worker's room. "This little girl had been locked up, so we cut the lock off the door and found her inside with a bowl of rice and water. Her parents did that – locked her in their room – for her own safety." Tracy doesn't have a nursery there, but she still goes to the camp for a site visit, and her staff follow up, to check how the kids are.

Tracy says, "Many of the workers are delighted we have come along and built the nursery so the children are safe in the day. They also know that if something is wrong, I'll make sure they get what they need. It's a simple thing, but means a lot to the workers. Babies that are taken to nurseries appear to learn



to walk faster and develop more because they've got more space to crawl, walk and explore, instead of being confined to tin shacks that are just six foot by six foot, and sometimes locked inside."

Construction workers are some of the hardest working people Tracy has ever met, she says. And while most Thais and foreigners know about the "tin towns" where they live, most usually think workers only live there for a few months, whereas some workers often lived in such sites for years. "One of the things I have noticed is that the parents start taking better care of their child, and the families take more care of the other children as well [once a nursery is built]," she says. "One of the older children recently came to me and took me to a little girl's house. She had been sick and the older girl wanted me to make sure she was okay."

"Many friends – and friends of friends – give me clothes for the children, and many times we have had the kids in party dresses, designer clothing, etc. It just makes me smile. There they are in a wonderful nursery – the photos are brilliant – and then they go outside, back to their tin houses. They look like a different child than the one who came in. A few days ago I took a friend with me who was shocked at the babies and toddlers – how beautifully dressed they were – I just laughed!"

Tracy now has six staff – all Thai – helping her social projects. When children at nurseries at the work camps are sick, she or her staff take them to hospital and pay for the child's care and medication. But even with so much on her plate, she sees further needs all around. She wants to fund a project for elderly people in Burma, plus another nursery in Naklua (Pattaya), as there are now many work camps there with about 250 children around.



"One of the greatest things about the projects in Pattaya is the Hard Rock Hotel, who have been a wonderful support since 2001," Tracy says. "The children go swimming there and enjoy foam parties, and they are all treated like little VIPs. It's wonderful for the children to be able to enjoy the swimming pool – not just one trip to the hotel, we go once a week and more in the school holidays. I don't know any other hotel that would allow this. The 'Love All, Serve All' motto speaks wonders."

"Two of the little girls have been in a Thai magazine photo shoot, and they were delighted to see themselves in print. They have met many stars, and when they go back and tell their parents, the excitement on their face says it all."

Tracy's work is channelled via the Melissa Cosgrove Children's Foundation, named after her daughter, now 18 and just having finished school in Bangkok. She also has a son, Paul, aged 20, who is at university in Edinburgh.

In February, a series of concerts will be staged in Bangkok (at the Club), Pattaya and on Koh Samui by singer Heather Small to raise money for the Cosgrove nurseries and orphanages. Please visit the website – www.mccf.uk.com – for more information.

PAST PARTICIPLE

Auspicium Melioris Ævi

By Paul Cheesman



We continue our peek into our Club's past as we look at events of 1947...

1 The first event of the year was... a committee meeting, seriously. 1st January 1947 commenced with a meeting of the committee to discuss the lack of a constitution. In the few months since the Grand Re-opening, many matters had come to light – honorary members, absent members etc. – that necessitated a constitution to be drafted. There was no record of any pre-war Constitution, save for a copy of the 1936 Rule Book (which, sadly, is no longer in the Club's archives), but that was unhelpful, as the 'new' British Club Bangkok was a members' club and not a debentures club. Thus, Club Chairman Victor Jacques set about writing the new Rule Book in readiness for the 'first' Annual General Meeting.

2 The first major event in the calendar was the arrival of the HMS Alacrity (U60), a modified Black Swan-class sloop, in Bangkok Dock on 24th and 25th February. The Club invited the petty officers and rating to 'Tiffin' (luncheon) on both days, with ping-pong tables and dartboards borrowed for the occasion and the officers donating two flags to the Club in thanks. Welcoming sailors to town became a frequent event in early Club life with the HMS Alert (K647), a Bay-class frigate, visiting in June, and the HMS Hart, a sister ship to the HMS Alacrity, in early 1948. Many of the plaques given to the Club by visiting ships over the years still decorate the walls of the Churchill Bar.

3 The 'first' AGM of our new Club was held on 27th February 1947 and approved the 'first' Constitution and Rules setting out that "The Club is owned by its Ordinary and Country Members for the benefit of all in the British community in Thailand, present and future." It was further added that the object of the Club was to provide a social meeting place and games and entertainment for its Members on a non-profit basis.



The first of many Royal Naval ships welcomed to the Club.

Membership, originally limited pre-war to 'British Gentlemen', was extended to all 'British Commonwealth subjects', as it was felt "undesirable that a British Club should exclude any subjects of the British Commonwealth from becoming members". This noble gesture was based upon the existing 1914 UK law that everyone born in the Empire, and subsequent Commonwealth, was a British subject. Unfortunately, the gesture was flouted by the August 1947 break-up of British India, the British Nationality Act 1948 and the creation of national citizenship by most Commonwealth members, thus rendering the term 'British Commonwealth subject' devoid of meaning. Membership was soon to be limited to "citizens of the UK and such other persons who are of British descent, as the committee may decide".

4 In September 1947, two of the last pieces of the rehabilitations from the Siamese Government arrived in the form of two reconditioned billiards tables, manufactured by Messrs W. Jelks & Son of Holloway, London. Imported by Messrs Barrow, Brown & Company, the Siamese Ministry of the Interior paid out £528 5s 6d for their transportation and installation in the Club's new Billiards Room.

As Jelks ceased trading in 1938, it is unknown where the tables spent their earlier life, but both tables remained with the Club until 2006, when one was sold on to a member to allow the then-Billiards Room to be reduced in size.

5 By the end of 1947, Club life had returned to some normality: the Club was open 4pm to 8pm each weekday and on Saturday and Sunday daytimes and with a member of the committee present two 'Club Nights' a week to take suggestions from members (what a good idea!); the tennis courts were fully functional (outside of the monsoon) with a dek (ball-boy) available for 3 ticals a session [the exchange rate was about 40 ticals to one Pound Sterling]; the bowling alley was equally available, but at the reduced price of 2.50 ticals per session; billiards could be played at a cost of 2 ticals per hour; monthly movie nights (on the back lawn) showed the latest films brought up from the British High Commission in Singapore; and the year ended, as is now a tradition, with a large Christmas Ball on the back lawn.

Nearly six years after its abandonment, the British Club Bangkok was once more!



Billiards for all!

The Author was Vice-Chairman of the Club from 2001 to 2003 and Honorary Secretary from 2000 to 2003 and in 2006 and 2007.



PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

GREEN DAY LIVE IN BANGKOK
TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2010
AT IMPACT ARENA, MUANG THONG THANI

TRANSPORT LEAVES AT 7.00 PM
CONCERT STARTS AT 8.30 PM.
THB 3,100 PER PERSON

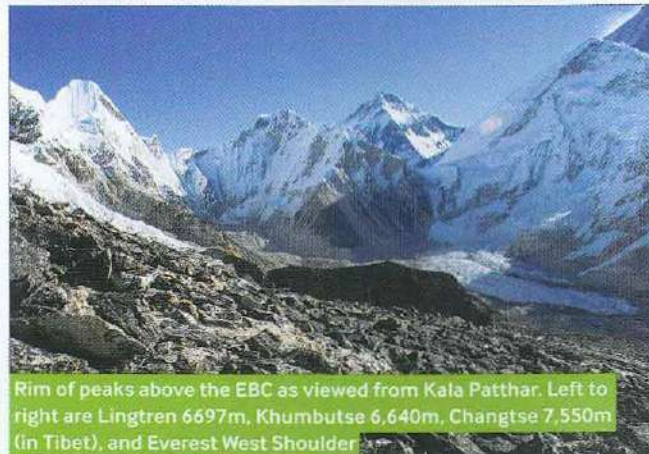
PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE CLUB HOUSE RECEPTION

A BIRTHDAY IN THE HIMALAYAS TREKKING TO MOUNT EVEREST BASE CAMP

By Emil Siranovic



First view of Everest (left) and Nuptse (right) peaks from Tengboche



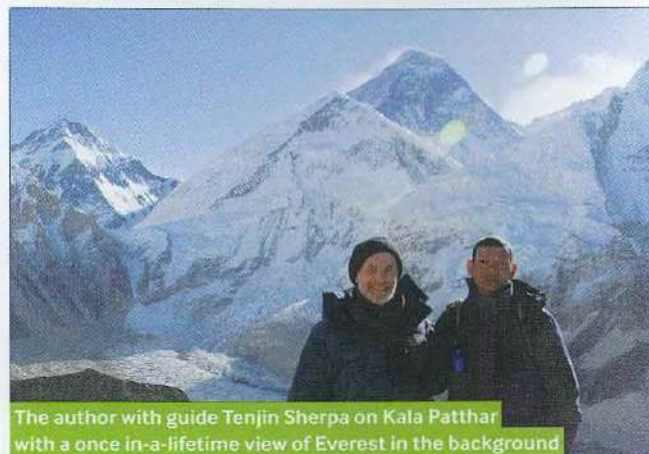
Rim of peaks above the EBC as viewed from Kala Patthar. Left to right are Lingtren 6697m, Khumbutse 6,640m, Changtse 7,550m (in Tibet), and Everest West Shoulder

Many of us dream doing something out of the ordinary for a life milestone like the big "six-oh" event. Few dream big enough to reach the stars... or at least close to the stars in the case of Mount Everest's Base Camp (EBC). Last year, a friend made a bid to make the dream come true and managed to corral some adventurous friends, including me, to reach for the sky in the Himalayas, all this with little understanding of the difficulty of the undertaking but with a great deal of enthusiasm. Despite some punishing climbs and freezing nights in the Himalayan highlands, the venture was a great success, and we reached the EBC. We also managed to celebrate the instigator's sixtieth birthday at a rest stop in Lobuche (at 4,900 metres) complete with a large cake baked in a primitive oven fuelled by yak dung.

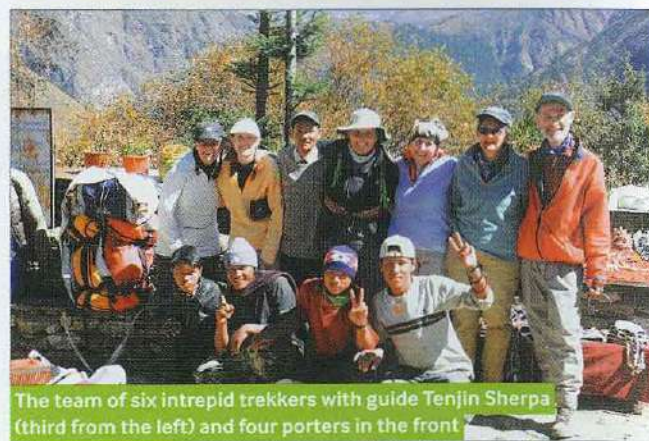
The journey by conventional tourists to EBC is usually made by flying from Kathmandu, Nepal into the town of Lukla and trekking from there to EBC in six to eight days, with rest stops along the way. This is a moderately strenuous trek, albeit with several very steep and difficult climbs of 500-600m. The journey takes one from an elevation of 2,840m at Lukla to 5,360m at EBC, and high altitude becomes an important factor. At these altitudes, many experience some degree of altitude sickness, and some are forced to turn back long before reaching the EBC.

Our group, in fact, commenced its journey in the town of Jiri, some 70 kilometres south of Lukla, following the route taken by Sir Edmund Hillary in 1953. This first stage of the journey was entirely different from the trek from Lukla to EBC. Here the climate was surprisingly mild, with heavily wooded mountains and farms flourishing in the wider valleys. The maximum elevation reached on the highest pass was only 3,500m, but the trekking was tough, as the trail cuts across the grain of the land with its north-to-south running valleys. We trekked the 70 kilometres in seven days climbing vertically (up and down) nearly 11,000m, a feat not many are willing to attempt. For this reason, most start their EBC trek in Lukla.

The post-Lukla geography rapidly transitions from steep-sided green valleys to a largely arid and dry landscape resembling a moonscape. Smoothly worn rounded valleys are outlined on each side by huge piles of rocks and gravel left behind by



The author with guide Tenjin Sherpa on Kala Patthar with a once-in-a-lifetime view of Everest in the background



The team of six intrepid trekkers with guide Tenjin Sherpa (third from the left) and four porters in the front



Courtesy of Joette Berkompas/Sawaddi

long-retreated glaciers. Here the trail mostly follows the valleys and, in approaching EBC, crosses the Khumbu Glacier, which originates at the base of Everest.

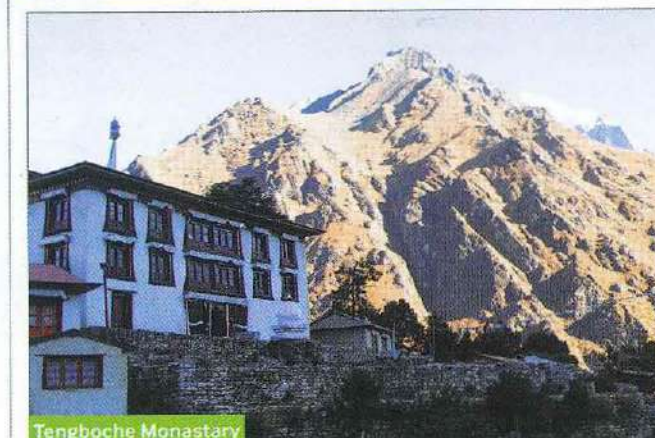
A key town along the way is Namche Bazaar, the unofficial capital of the Sherpas, who were our guides and porters. From Namche, many white peaks are visible as a prelude to the trek through higher ranges of the Himalayas. A day's trek from Namche Bazaar, and a difficult climb, brought us to the magnificent Tengboche Monastery. From there, we first sighted Mount Everest on the horizon.

Four days later and much heavy trekking into the ever-thinning air brought us to Gorak Shep, the last rest stop before EBC. Here the mountains were all around and so close that they seemed "in your face". Everest, although by far the highest peak at 8,848m, is the hardest to see clearly, and its closer companions Nuptse, Lhotse, Changtse, Lingtren and Pumo Ri dominate the horizon. It is only from the highest vantage point of Kala Patthar at 5,550m, and just above Gorak Shep, that Everest can be seen in its full glory. At this point, the stars truly did not seem too far to reach, and the effort to get there paled into insignificance.

Emil Siranovic is a civil engineer living in Bangkok. He is an ardent traveler and amateur photographer.



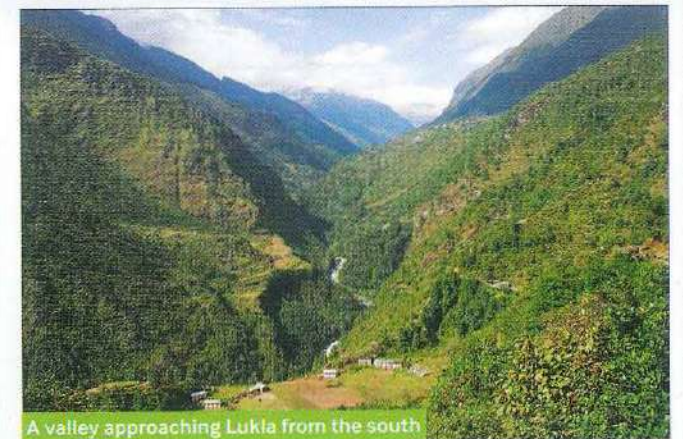
Lukla airport with a steeply sloping runway



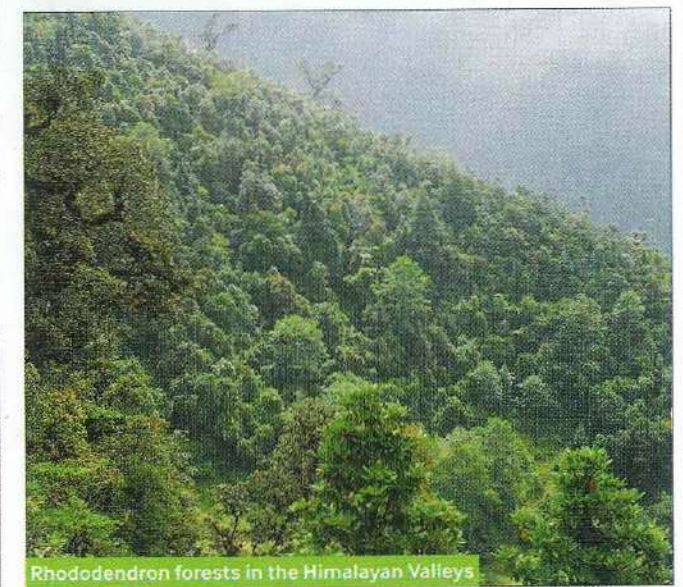
Tengboche Monastery



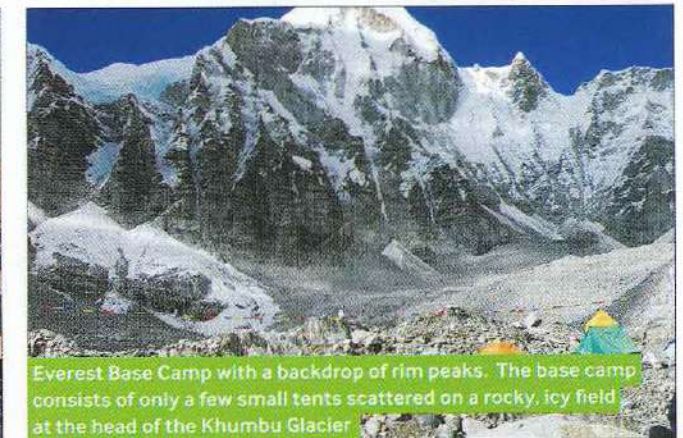
Lingtren peak 6,697m



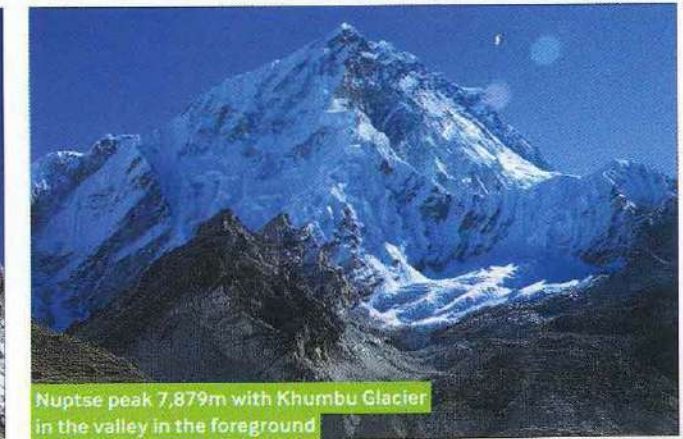
A valley approaching Lukla from the south



Rhododendron forests in the Himalayan Valleys



Everest Base Camp with a backdrop of rim peaks. The base camp consists of only a few small tents scattered on a rocky, icy field at the head of the Khumbu Glacier



Nuptse peak 7,879m with Khumbu Glacier in the valley in the foreground

BC CALENDAR - JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29			<div>Recovery Day and Polar Swim</div> <div>Poolside and around the Club</div> <div>Starts at 11am.</div> <div>1</div>	
<div>Sunday Carvery</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch only.</div> <div>3</div>		<div>Tuesday Carvery</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch only.</div> <div>5</div>	<div>Paella & Sangria Specials</div> <div>All F&B outlets.</div> <div>Lunch and Dinner.</div> <div>6</div>		<div>Curry Buffet</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch and Dinner.</div> <div>8</div>	
<div>Sunday Carvery</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch only.</div> <div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>CLUB CLOSED</div>	<div>Tuesday Carvery</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch and Dinner.</div> <div>12</div> <div><div>Green Day.</div><div>Live in Bangkok</div><div>IMPACT Arena</div><div>Transport leaves Club at 7pm.</div></div>		<div>14</div>	<div>Jamie Oliver Buffet</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch and Dinner.</div> <div>15</div>	
<div>Sunday Carvery</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch only.</div> <div>17</div> <div><div>Doctor Who:</div><div>The End of Time</div><div>10am.</div></div>		<div>Tuesday Carvery</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch only.</div> <div>19</div>	<div>Paella & Sangria Specials</div> <div>All F&B outlets.</div> <div>Lunch and Dinner.</div> <div>20</div>		<div>Greek Buffet</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch and Dinner.</div> <div>22</div>	
<div>Sunday Carvery</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch only.</div> <div>24</div>		<div>Tuesday Carvery</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch only.</div> <div>26</div>	<div>Paella & Sangria Specials</div> <div>All F&B outlets.</div> <div>Lunch and Dinner.</div> <div>27</div>			<div>30</div>
<div>Sunday Carvery</div> <div>The Verandah</div> <div>Lunch only.</div> <div>31</div>						

RECIPROCAL CLUBS

As an active British Club member, you are entitled to enjoy the full use of other associated Club facilities around the world. This month, we feature the Jakarta International Club in Indonesia.

Jakarta International Club

Wisma 46 - Kota BNI, 4th Floor,
Jl. Jendral Sudirman Kav. 1
Jakarta 10220, Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 574 6608
Fax: +62 21 574 6609
Email: dewi@jakartainternationalclub.com
Website: www.jakartainternationalclub.com

Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, is home to some thirteen million people. And among these diverse thirteen million are those who desire a lifestyle with a difference – a lifestyle that complements their needs and desires for prestige and comfort, for international ambiance and professional style. The Jakarta International Club is ready to fulfil these needs for its discriminating Members. Its exceptional restaurants and lounges, its family and fitness facilities and services have been designed to appeal to all members of the family.

Conveniently located in the contemporary environment of Wisma 46, Jakarta's tallest building, the Jakarta International Club occupies a prime location with panoramic vistas of Jakarta, from the Java Sea to the mountain tops of central Java. Its mixture of outlets is ready to provide unparalleled quality and service, whether for a business meeting or a family gathering. And access to the Club is provided by any of three major arteries, providing access from both within and outside the "three-in-one" traffic zone.

Jakarta International Club Members and their Guests can enjoy the style and comfort of elegant surroundings, attended to by courteous and efficient staff. The Club affords the ideal setting for hosting social and business gatherings and also provides memorable dining facilities in a variety of luxurious rooms. A constantly changing kaleidoscope of events and activities demonstrates the Club's belief that each and every visit should be special.

Facilities

Dining

Olive Restaurant welcomes you to a world of fine Chinese cuisine served and enjoyed in the elegant surroundings of our restaurant. Located on the lower level of Wisma 46, you will find this restaurant carries all your favourite Chinese dishes, ranging from the appetizing Shark's Fin Soup to the delectable Peking Roast Duck. The taste of these delicious morsels can only be described as mouth-watering.



Our lunch menu from Monday to Saturday is temptingly comprehensive, with the entire cuisine superbly presented and tasting divine.

Fitness Centre / Locker Rooms

The Club's Fitness facilities were designed with a Member's every fitness need in mind. This fully equipped Centre serves both beginners and long-time fitness advocates alike. Professional instruction is available. Enjoy both cardiovascular and circuit training equipment, in addition to variable resistance machines and free weights.



Changing and locker rooms have been designed with a emphasis on comfort and convenience. A full selection of grooming supplies is provided, along with personal lockers, in which a Member can keep his training shoes and personal effects. A whirlpool bath, steam room and sauna perfectly complement the facility, and professional massage service is available as well.

Family Room

The Family Room is designed as the perfect place for the entire family to enjoy their life at the Jakarta International Club. Be it a game of pool, foosball or air hockey, or a round of darts, the Family Room will keep the entire family busy. A selection of books is available as well, for reading in the Club or for taking home to read at your leisure. And those who desire less strenuous activities can enjoy a game of chess or backgammon. Complimentary popcorn is always available, and a selection of beverages is available from the Patio Cafe.



For more of the Club's extensive facilities, please visit the website for the Jakarta International Club listed above.

Note:

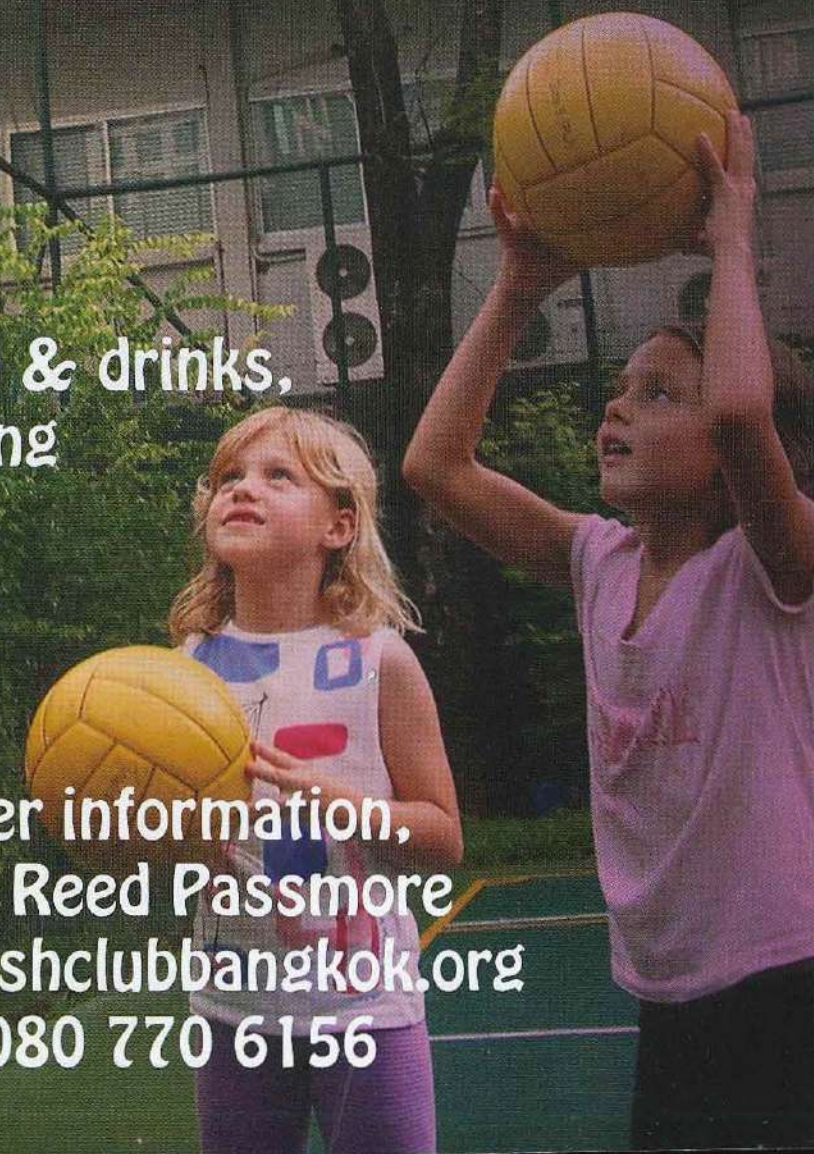
Please contact Membership Services for an introduction letter. Tel. 02 234 0247. Email: membership@britishclubbangkok.org

Junior Netball

Open day and sign up free
Saturday, 23rd January 2010
Games, coaching, sign up and
Free sausage sizzle for the kids!
At the British Club Bangkok, Silom 18

Season starts on
Saturday, 6th February
3.00 pm (8 weeks)
THB 1,500 per child
includes THB 500 of food & drinks,
medals, cakes, free parking
and coaching.

For further information,
contact Mr Reed Passmore
at Reed@britishclubbangkok.org
or Tel. 080 770 6156



SPORTS & LEISURE

By Reed Passmore

Dear Members,

I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas, a well-deserved break... and hopefully not too much Christmas pudding! The Club has been very busy over the festive season with scuba diving lessons, the Kid's Christmas Ball, Christmas parties, swimming lessons, junior tennis lessons, squash and tennis events and more.

November

Fun Run: Many members (plus Barry, Amnat and I) have been doing our part and participating in fun runs. The first one was the Standard Chartered Run, followed by a fun run a few weeks later to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Skytrain.



Upcoming activities and events:

Junior Netball: Saturday, 23rd January, 3-5pm. Sign-up and FUN DAY! Games, coaching, registration and free sausage sizzle for the kids. Open for girls and boys, ages 6-13 years old.

travel
THAILAND



Saturday, 6th February, 3pm. Season starts. 8 weeks. 1500 baht per child includes 500 baht in food and drinks, medals, cakes and coaching. Non-members welcome.

Squash vs Tennis: Saturday, 16th January. Squash, tennis and any other section member wanting to challenge for the ultimate prize (a very small trophy stating you won!!). This will be a fun evening with tennis, table tennis and squash. Buffet dinner and free beer.

Scuba Lessons: Saturday, 16th January, 3pm. Have you seen Huw in the pool??? Free trial lesson. This is for children and adults looking to see what scuba is all about and if you are interested. Sign up and learn to dive.

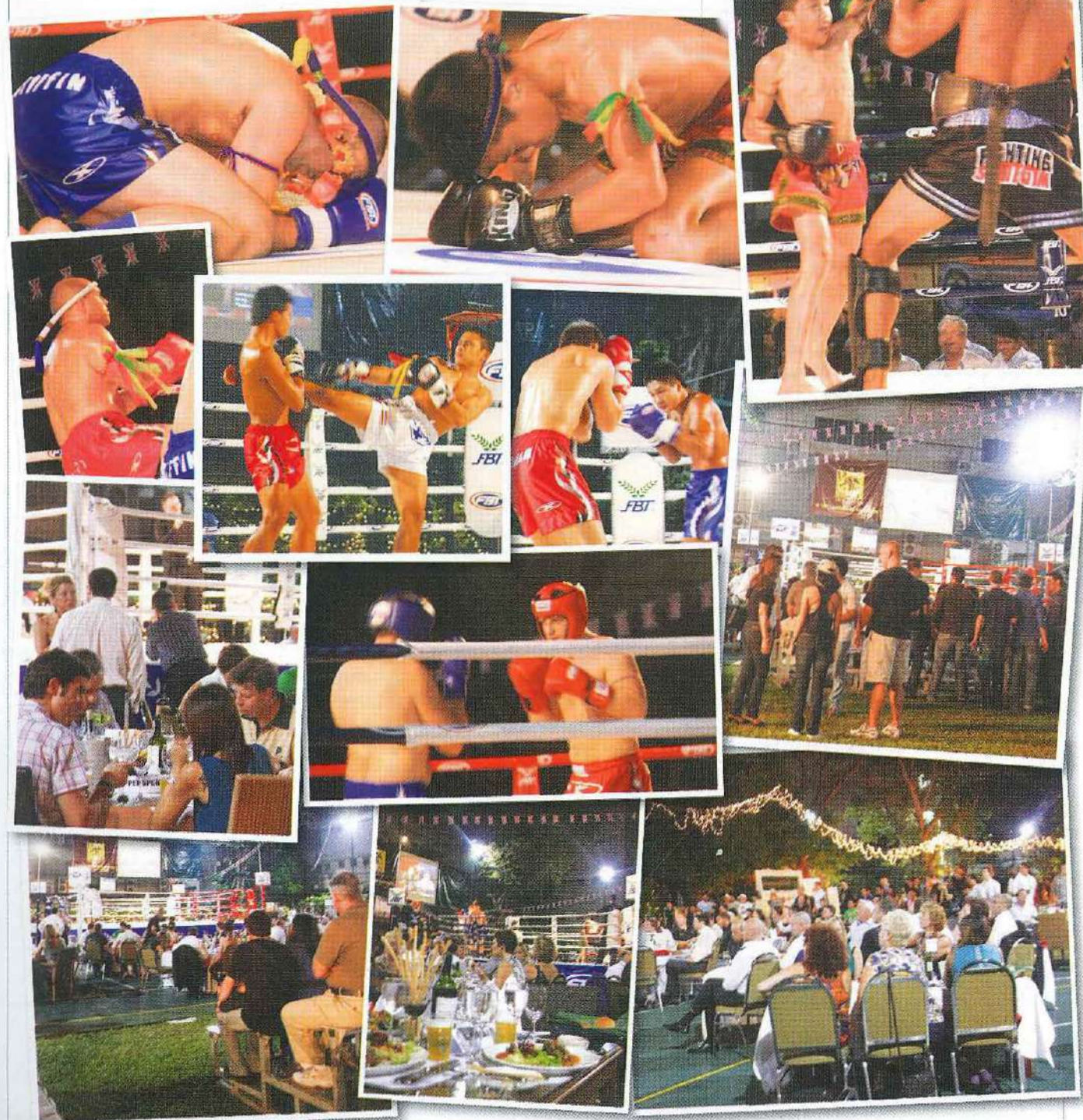
Water Polo is back!!! Sunday, 14th February, 3pm. The shallow end of the pool will be closed for an afternoon of fun. Family rules.



Valya and Philip Rossmanith, first members to be certified

FIGHT NIGHT

300 hundred people attended the 2nd British Club Fight Night. The amateur boxers were a highlight of the night with all fighters putting on a great show. Thanks again to everyone that came out that night and also to the fighters and the fantastic sponsors. With great sponsors like Landmark Hotel, Chang Beer, Travel Thailand and Bann Taling Ngaam, the next night promises to be even bigger. See you there next time!



SQUASHY BITS

By Bruce Madge, bmadge@hotmail.com



Newsflash just in: Bob Van Es is a man!

Rightio! So much to say, so little space. Look at the pictures, and those of you that can read, help those that can't.

Rod Carter and Plate in October:

Usual malarkey – dozens and dozens of willing and regular entrants from all over BKK; event kindly sponsored by ACA and Food by Phone; 2 weeks of great matches; Plate dominated by Vajiravuth College boys and won by 16-year old Phakaphon beating Witsanu (Top), 3-1; main event featured mostly local Thai players, with the Rod Carter title going again to Poowis from the RSBC, though Tosapon took a game off him in the final. Excellent competition as usual: well-supported and generously sponsored; still remains the premier squash tournament in Thailand. Many, many thanks from BCB Squash to all those that took part, and in particular to sponsors ACA, Food by Phone, Jack Dunford, Nick Mellor and Kham. Gratitude also to Rit and David Eastgate for helping so much with organisation while Peter was prepping himself for his brain operation, and a big "thank you" to the kitchen and waiting staff for great service with food and beverages on the final day.

Peter's operation: A great success; very little pain or discomfort; out of hospital within a week; recovering very well. See photo for further details.

Ken's 60th: Ken's wife, Jess, threw a wobbly when she found out her husband was 60! He'd always maintained he was only 52 and a half! She was livid! Threw all his squash kit out the car window on the Bang Na expressway. Threw him out of their house! God, did she throw! Well, actually, she only threw a surprise party for him at the Club on the Saturday before the Rod Carter finals. Hell of a surprise for Ken, as he hadn't realized it was his birthday! But balloons, cake, candles, pop, presents, well-wishes, hugs and smiles in abundance. A plethora of pleasantries. Ken received a new Rubik's cube and a pair of Spider Man pyjamas made from real cotton. He said it was his bestest birthday yet. I'll just have to take his word for it, as I missed this celebration because I was working, and H never sent me the pictures because he doesn't know how to use a computer.



Bob before becoming a giraffe



Top



Poowis



Tosapon

The new Peter



Ken in his birthday suit



Det-5 Carnage

Det-5 mix-in and party:

Some of us gathered at the Club on Chulalongkorn Day in late October to run around a bit and then go to Bob Van Es' wife's bar on Sukhumvit Soi 8 to muck about. Can't remember who won the mix-in, though it was probably me, as I'm the best player. Anyway, off to Det-5 we went where the ladies got roaring drunk and started a fight with some local tailors. Disgraceful! H then sullied our reputation even further by continually using foul language at a very high volume and then leaving without paying his bill. What a rotter! Apart from all that, we had a nice time. Det-5 is a splendid bar/restaurant with very cold beer, excellent grub, decent sounds, big TVs, 4 pool tables, a garden, and a fine array of female flesh, in particular the bald, bearded, diamond earring-wearing one in the blue jeans. Thanks to him, who, according to the latest news just received on my teleprompter, is actually a transgendered giraffe, and his wife, who isn't.



Det-5 Babes



Is this the real Bob?



Riverine

Riverine: A few weeks back, we took a team to Riverine. That rhymes! Two days, four teams of seven players. We thrashed the Capital Club, 6-1, on day one to meet Chaeng Wattana in the final on day two. They then thrashed us, 6-1! How about that? That's called vice-versa, isn't it? Or is it comme ci, comme ça? Or maybe is it 'status quo'? Could even be Showaddywaddy? Whatever! Nice bunch of mainly Thai players at a lovely location overlooking the river. Very enjoyable weekend, though it rained on the way home.

Pattana Teachers:

Late November, they all came sporting Village People moustaches. They couldn't explain why. Probably all following their leader, Charles, who used to be the Red Indian in that supremely suspicious sextet of strange sorts. Anyway, they also gave us a thrashing, 7 flamin' games to 3! And to make it worse, Charlie Chilluckittequaw Winnebago Whitely played for them! Whose side's he on, eh? Gone right off him, I have! We all have! Afterwards, we drank some beer and had a fine curry buffet, for which Charles got the bill! Brilliant! That's what they call comeuppance, innit? Or is it, tuppence ha'penny? Whatever! Next time, we can go to their place... and we can all turn up with shaved heads like Right Said Fred... and they can treat us! Why not?



Charles, and co. when he was a superstar

Tony Austin: Who's he? Open oldies' tournament. Got to be over 45 to enter. Not much interest, really. Maybe some communication errors. Maybe some sent their entry forms to Tony himself. Maybe it was fear. Who knows? But only 7 dared. Won by Uthay of the RSBC or Polo Club or Golf Club. Maybe he even plays for the Bangkok Veterans, Friday, Scrabble Circle. I don't know, as I was ill-informed due to my roving correspondent, Squash, not being in a position to report! Actually, the winner's name is Uttain, but I think Uthay sounds better, as it means 'shoot' or 'fire' in Japanese. If you've seen The Last Samurai, you'll know what I'm on about. Too Many Mind! More oldie entrants next year, please. Thank you.

Stop press: The 'Bob-is-a-confused-giraffe' rumour has been swept aside under a tide of cast-iron confirmations that he is actually a female camel!



This is the real Bob



Village People

Ross is off: After far too long playing extremely poor squash, especially that ridiculous, pathetic, reverse angle, nonsense, rubbish shot he attempts and fails with at least a dozen times per match, and irritating most he meets with his banal comments, assaulting me in the gents' loo, and generally being an all-round pillock, Brian is off to Indonesia to become a radical Muslim cleric. To say farewell he held a nice party recently, when he – and others, such as Mellor and Drew – assaulted me again (I have photographic evidence!). On a less serious note, though: see ya, Brian. Good luck, mate. We loved you... really.



The soon to be new Brian Ross

Squash: A few weeks ago, the section mascot, Squash, was accidentally hit by a vehicle in the Club carpark and sadly died from his injuries. He was barely a year old. It happened on a Monday evening about 6pm. Soon after the accident, he was found by Club member Meilan Anderson who bundled him up in a towel and took him to a local clinic then onto an animal hospital in Ekkamai before transferring him to Kasetsart University Clinic. There was a chance he might survive, but with a cracked skull, brain damage and a broken jaw, he just wasn't able to. Meilan kindly returned his body to the Club where we buried it under the trees beyond the Back lawn. There is a wooden cross that marks the spot. I first encountered Squash about a year ago, when he was just a baby. He made his way over to me by court one, and from then on, I fed him whenever I saw him, and he would sit with me by the courts or the pool. He was effectively my pet cat. I shall miss him. My gratitude to Meilan for her kindness and selflessness in aiding him to hospital and keeping me updated on his condition and for initially settling the medical bill. Thanks also to many of the staff who expressed concern over him, and many thanks to Barry for organising the digging of his grave and to the BCB for allowing him to be buried at the Club.



Before their punch-up in Soi 8!



Squash, R.I.P.
Until next time....

GOLFING NEWS

By Ray Bloom

Hassell Cup challenge match – Saturday, 14th November – Windsor Park Golf Course, Minburi

This year's annual challenge match, hosted by the Lighthouse Golf Society, got 29 golfers out of bed early for a 7.30am start! Over a much-needed intake of caffeine, the groupings and format were announced. It was to be individual Stableford scoring, with points totalled at the end for an overall team score.

In spite of good playing conditions and a well-kept course, rumours around the course indicated that most golfers were finding pars and birdies very elusive. Indeed, there were many disappointed faces seen trooping into the clubhouse to hand in cards reluctantly to 'boost' the team score.

After refreshing showers and with brighter faces, the participating players gathered in the clubhouse restaurant to commiserate with each other and order food and drinks to complete the re-invigoration process. Without any delay, the Lighthouse Society's Mike Holloway called for order; thanked sponsor, HASSELL; and announced the team result and individual winners of the technical prizes.

Technical prizes for near-pins were presented to me (2 prizes), Mike Moir and Phil Adkins. The longest drive was hit by Mike Sinkinson, and Mike Holloway sank the longest putt.

As predicted, it turned out to be a low-scoring event, so we must congratulate Phil North for his 35 points and Num Sobell for his 40 points, as respective highest scorers for each team. After announcing a comfortable victory to the Lighthouse team by 401 points to 344, Hassell Director Phil Hannaford presented the trophy to the Lighthouse captain, Bryan Dodd [1].



With much bonhomie and friendly banter, all agreed we had had a good day's sport on a challenging course and looked forward to next year's challenge.

Monthly Stableford Competition – 22nd November – Kiarti Thane

In a refreshing breeze, four groups left the clubhouse to find perfect golfing conditions on this lovely course. After causing some initial confusion over which group would accept him, Bob Randle allowed the players to embark on their rounds, driving off from Hole 10.

During the frequent stops around the course, it became apparent that players were finding points hard to come by, but rumours were heard that Captain Frank was enjoying a good round.

Over much-needed clubhouse refreshment, it transpired that the Captain would indeed take the first prize bottle of wine with a very respectable 40 points. Well done, Captain! In 2nd place with 33 points came fast-improving Andrew McLean, and in 3rd place came steadily-improving Peter Bond with 30.



In order to solve the presentation dilemma of Frank presenting himself with the 1st prize, Andrew stepped in as temporary presenter [2].

The announcement of technical prizes confirmed what a good round Frank had played, as he also picked up two near-pin prizes. Jack O'Flynn was also accurate on two par-3s and took away the much-prized golf balls as recognition of his achievements. Unsurprisingly, Mr Precision, aka Peter Bond, sank the longest putt on the 18th green, but to everyone's surprise, I hit the longest drive... and will now turn heads when I approach a tee-box!

Monthly Medal Competition – Sunday, 29th November – The Royal Golf Course, Lat Krabang

In fresh conditions, 23 golfers took on this lovely, but sometimes challenging, course. The six groups drove off from both first and tenth tees, with few obvious hold-ups. As the afternoon wore on, it transpired that the course marshals were working well to keep all groups moving, and word spread quickly that it was becoming the Karen Holloway show.

At the after-golf gathering, Captain Frank confirmed the rumour. The Flight A competition had developed into a close battle between Karen, Phil North and Andy Flynn, but Karen just edged it with a net score of 73, the same as Phil but superior when applying the count-back ruling. Andy's 74 earned him 3rd place. Karen was delighted to receive her medal from Captain Frank to commemorate her great round [3].



In Flight B (golfers with handicaps of 18 and over), Andrew McLean took 3rd place with a net score of 77, Brian Brook landed 2nd on 76 and winner Bob Randle came in with 75. Well done, Bob!

The technicals list also featured Karen as winner of several categories. She took a near-pin award, in conjunction with Jason Triggs, Mike Staples and Vaughan Litton. She also hit the ladies' longest drive and longest putt on the 18th green. To no-one's surprise, the aforementioned Phil North hit the men's longest drive.

So ended another successful and thoroughly enjoyable monthly medal event. Thanks should go to Captain Frank for pulling the event together so well. Thanks, Frank!

Hua Hin Golf Weekend – 5th and 6th December – Imperial Lake View Golf Course, Hua Hin

On a beautiful Saturday morning, you could sense high expectations as we gathered for pre-match banter – the



Ashmans enjoying a bit of family bonding, accompanied by Captain Frank, Brian, Carole Ann and Ray Harries's knee, whilst the shy and retiring David Lamb, looked on (4).

The Saturday round comprised three competitions – the Inaugural Trophy (for golfers with handicaps over 18), the Ambassador Cup (for golfers with handicaps under 18) and the Dee-Med Trophy (Committee versus Members).



With dry and undulating fairways and tricky, undulating greens, the Lake View course proved hazardous for many players. However, shrugging off these obstacles, the young Ed Ashman, holidaying from university, took full advantage of the long, rolling fairways

and brought in a score of 37 Stableford points to take the Inaugural Trophy, presented by Captain Frank [5].



In a return to form, the more experienced (sounds better than 'veteran') Brian Brook claimed the Ambassador Cup with a very impressive 41 points [6]. Well done, Brian and Ed!



This is the 15th year that Members have taken on the Committee for the Dee-Med Trophy. In a close match, the Committee came out narrow winners to take the tally now to 9-6 in favour of the Committee. On behalf of the Members, David Lamb handed the trophy to Club Captain Frank [7].



To complete the formalities, we took the opportunity to acknowledge a rare occurrence – Barry Ashman, having played in 14 previous Dee-Med Trophy events, about equally for the Committee and for the Members, had never been on the winning side. Saturday was the first time that he had represented the winners [8].

As a preparation for the future, Gaew began Matthew's BCGS initiation process by introducing him to red wine and David Lamb [9]. Answers on a postcard as to which is the lesser of the two evils!



Saturday's technicals – near-pins were won by David Lamb, Val Ashman and Brian Brook. The men's longest drive was achieved by the aforementioned Ed, with Jenny Harries hitting the ladies' longest drive. The longest putt on the 18th green was sunk by David Lamb.

The SUAL Bell competition against the GCL golfers from Bangkok, again at Imperial Lake View, Hua Hin

This annual event, to contest the SUAL Bell, has been a feature of our golfing calendar since 1989, with honours roughly even. This year, the Sunday event was played out in a match play Stableford format. Many golfers were old adversaries and were pleased to have the opportunity to meet up again [10].



On the testing fairways and greens, our previous day's round proved ineffective as course practice for the team and resulted in a 5-3 defeat.

To offset the day's disappointment, we all gathered at the beachside residence of long-standing supporter Ben for barbecue and drinks and to listen to the day's results. It was a wonderful end to the event, with much bonhomie and banter amongst the competing golfers, under the stars and accompanied by lively music and the sound of waves crashing on the nearby beach. What a life, eh?



In a short closing ceremony, Captain Frank posed with the GCL captain, David Chainant, jointly handling the SUAL Bell until next year's eagerly awaited re-match [11].

Our top performers were Ray Harries with 40 Stableford points and Yuruchatr Brook with 35. Near-pin awards went to Barry Ashman, Ray Harries, Steve Waldmeyer & Yuruchatr.

Long-drives were made by Gaew Khongyoo and Captain Frank, with Barry Ashman sinking the longest putt on the 18th.

So ended another very enjoyable weekend's golf.

Guests and new members are welcome at all our events. Either email or phone for more information and to sign up for the next games.

Website: www.bcgolfsociety.com

Email: bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk

Phone: Frank Fawkes, Club Captain, on 089 165 1953

For the fortunate golfers who can and want to play a midweek round, there is friendly golf on offer every Wednesday morning with the Midweekers group (www.bkkmidweekers.com). We play most weeks at Bangkok Golf Club, Pathum Thani, where we take advantage of preferential green fees, but travel to other courses that also offer good value. Contact me, Ray Bloom, on rbloom_364@yahoo.co.uk or 087 051 3548.

TENNIS

First Serve: Welcome all members to another action-packed tennis update.

Second Serve: The section has been busy with the tennis league, mix-ins, matches against RBSC and social games. The BC hosted the RBSC on the 29th November. This was an entertaining day with the BC easily the victors.

Squash vs Tennis Event: Saturday, 16th January, 5pm. The tennis section will battle it out with the squash section for the ultimate prize. Tennis, table tennis and squash, followed by a buffet and free beer. Sponsored by Beer Chang. All matches will have modified rules to allow for fast games, quick scoring and a little cheating.

Harrow Invite: Friday, 5th February, 7pm. The Harrow International School is invited to join our Friday night mix-in. Social mix-in, followed by a drink or two.

Beer Chang Extravaganza Match: Saturday, 13th February, 5pm. Another social tennis day. Extravaganzas are fun, fast and are open for all members to participate.



Tennis League: The monthly league is doing well with Nutt, Rajeev, Kraison, Erich and Na all winning their matches. Well done to all players for playing your games. The league is growing every month – that's great!



John McEnroe Quotes (I googled hard for these!)
"This taught me a lesson, but I'm not quite sure what it is."

"Now I get docked 10 to 20 per cent (of my appearance fee) if I don't yell or break at least one racquet."

"The ball was in!"

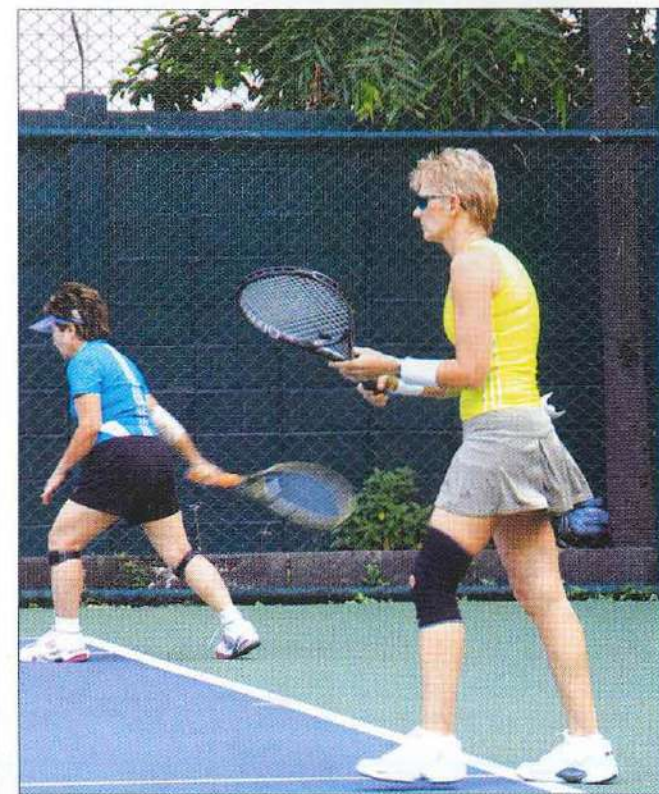
"You cannot be serious!"

"There's too much money and too many nice guys around."

And my favourite (which I may or may not have made up):
"A good headband hides a bad haircut."



Our chairman, James Young



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BC BALUT



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BCB Balut Chairman Phil Alexander accepts the Championship

BCB WINS INTERPORT CUP!

Flying back from an Interport Competition in Borneo in the knowledge that we are to host the following year's Interport seems to be becoming rather a habit for the British Club Bangkok's Balut Teams. In 2007, our single team returned from the Sarawak Club in Kuching, with the insistent endorsement of the Interport Balut community that Bangkok should be the

2008 venue still ringing in our ears. We duly hosted the 2008 competition (to great acclaim), and on 20th November this year, no less than four teams (16 Club members) arrived at the Sabah Golf & Country Club in Kota Kinabalu to participate at the 29th STC Interport Balut Competition.

The generous hospitality and warm welcome from the SGCC was typical of the Balut fraternity, and it was excellent sanuk for all of us in rekindling the friendships that we had established in Bangkok last year. The SGCC is set in stunningly beautiful grounds on the southern edge of Kota Kinabalu, and the clubhouse balconies give wonderful views, not only of the dramatically landscaped golf course itself, but also of the Crocker Mountain range rising up through the misty clouds in the middle distance. Truly, Sabah must be the most scenic state in Malaysia. The Friday night party and dinner were greatly enjoyed by all, and on Saturday morning, we returned for final registrations, the team photos and an early lunch (excellent cuisine) before commencing play at 13:00h. Sadly, Mrs Rit Van Es became ill at the last moment and couldn't participate, so we were kindly 'lent' the services of Richard Yong by the Singapore Recreation Club in order to make up the fourth on Bob's team.

The Club's First Team (Carlos & Tik Romero, Phil Alexander, Roger Willbourn) got off to a storming start in the first few rounds, and at the halfway stage, held a commanding lead: it looked as though the Interport might be coming back to Bangkok somewhat earlier than expected! However, this team had a rotten second half and fell away to finish in only eighth place; respectable (given the 41 teams competing) but

nowhere near a podium finish. David Quine's bespoke Balut Internet Scoring System was coping well with the flood of data and was a real hit with the crowd yet again, as it kept updating the various categories of team and individual placings as the rounds progressed. However, in order to keep some element of suspense, the results on the screens were 'frozen' after the sixth round, and we all returned to our hotels in order to freshen up before the prize-giving dinner, not really knowing who had won.

However, on return to the Club in the evening, it soon leaked out that actually the Van Es Family team (the British Club's designated Second Team) had burst through the field in the closing stages and was declared the overall winner. In no small part, this was due to the very high scoring of their loaned player, Richard Yong (who also won the trophy for the highest scoring individual player), but he was very strongly supported by Aram, Lyla and Bob Van Es. So huge congratulations to them all. The current Sabah Minister for Tourism and the ex-Chief Minister of the State were on hand to present the trophies, and the Van Es Family were roundly cheered by the 160 or so people present – not only because they had won so convincingly, but also because everyone in the room was looking forward to returning to Bangkok for the 30th STC Interport Balut Competition in November 2010.

An added bonus for the Club's prestige was that Tik Romero was placed third highest individual player overall in the competition (and also collected 20,000 baht of sweepstakes winnings for her performance; Carlos was delighted that his wife had effectively paid for their weekend away!). Tik also won the 'spot prize' for throwing a Balut-in-One.

So, the Trophy returned to Bangkok on the Sunday night with its own seat on the plane, but sadly, the cheering hordes weren't on hand to welcome us back at Suvarnabhumi Airport... the news had not yet reached the Thai press. The Balut section quickly obtained permission from the General Committee to host the 30th STC Interport on 19-21 November 2010, and so we look forward to welcoming the region's Balut players back to the British Club Bangkok once again.

British Club Bangkok participating teams at the 29th STC Interport

SUDOKU

There's a rumour going around the Club (imagine that!); apparently, there's a Sudoku 'gang' of Members roaming the grounds, flaunting and taunting others of their number-puzzling skills. As rumours go around here, this one actually happens to be true, we're sad (or is it proud?) to say.

Some of the gang have continued to show their puzzling prowess by the Sudoku pages faxed, emailed, even wadded and tossed rather forcefully at Barry in passing (you know who you are, and we won't encourage copycatting by mentioning yours here!) The lab tallied the results from said pages and found some rather surprising – and disturbing news – this gang knows what they're doing. We're not happy about it.

C. Willburn (W257), Frank Fawkes (F155), Meilan Henderson (H243), Chris Masters (M1-something, we're too lazy to actually decipher and fact-check your handwriting!), and Hamish MacPherson (M454) all showed they have something (or nothing) to prove; but the gang leader (at least for this month) is once again Luddawan 'Da' Duanghai (D44), who shattered Club speed records (again, at least for this month).

In an attempt to stop this rampant hooliganism, the Labs have come up with a couple of ingenious Sudokus to shatter your synapses... and to show this gang a thing or two. Send in your solution times by email, fax or in person (refer to page 1 on how to do that). We'll mock you just right next issue!

7			4	1			5	
							6	9
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LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS:

7	9	8	5	6	1	2	3	4
4	5	6	9	3	2	1	7	8
2	1	3	4	7	8	5	6	9
8	6	1	7	4	3	9	5	2
5	7	9	2	8	6	4	1	3
3	2	4	1	5	9	7	8	6
9	3	2	6	1	7	8	4	5
1	8	5	3	9	4	6	2	7
6	4	7	8	2	5	3	9	1

7	5	6	9	3	4	2	1	8
9	2	4	6	1	8	3	5	7
1	3	8	5	7	2	6	4	9
4	7	5	3	2	6	8	9	1
8	6	9	1	4	7	5	3	2
2	1	3	8	5	9	7	6	4
5	4	2	7	6	1	9	8	3
3	9	7	4	8	5	1	2	6
6	8	1	2	9	3	4	7	5

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MONDAY NIGHT CLUB

The Monday Night Club had a rest over the Christmas and New Year's period, and with the Club closed on Monday, 11th January, we restart the MNC on Monday, 18th January, with an Oscar and BAFTA-winning story.

JANUARY

Each evening starts at 7pm in the Wordsworth Lounge with the full F&B menu available.

18th Gosford Park

This award-winning movie tells the 'upstairs/downstairs' tale of a 1932 English country house holding its annual shooting party.

A very exciting, if somewhat unorthodox, plot stars Michael Gambon, Alan Bates, Derek Jacobi, Maggie Smith, Helen Mirren, Eileen Atkins, Charles Dance, Jeremy Northam, Bob Balaban, Ryan Phillippe, Stephen Fry, Kelly Macdonald, James Wilby, Clive Owen, Emily Watson, Camilla Rutherford, Lawrence Fox and Richard E. Grant.

The story is simple: 28 people in one house, 1 dies... whodunnit?

Guess again!

25th Murder on the Links

Mark Twain described golf as "a good walk ruined", so I suppose a dead body on the links will really put the cat amongst the pigeons!

David Suchet stars as Hercule Poirot as we start 2010 with a classic 'whodunnit' – plenty of suspects, plenty of red herrings and a French detective to upset our Belgian hero!



28 people in one house,
1 dies... whodunnit?



"A good walk ruined!"



DOCTOR WHO THE END OF HIS SONG

Sunday, 17th January 2010

The four 2009-10 Doctor Who specials tell the story of the last days of the Tenth Doctor (David Tennant), so on Sunday, 17th January, we present the final tale.

10-11am PLANET OF THE DEAD

"You be careful, because your song is ending, sir. It is returning, it is returning through the dark. And then Doctor... oh, but then... he will knock four times."

A second chance to see last Easter's opening story – a noble thief, a bus, an ancient cup and six-foot tall ants. What an opening to the year!

11am-noon THE WATERS OF MARS

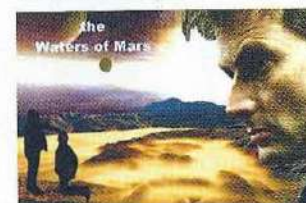
"Certain moments in time are fixed.... This thing, whatever it is, doesn't just hide in water, it creates water.... You are all infected, and if you take this back to Earth... remember... water always wins." The Doctor lands on Bowie, an Earth research station on Mars in 2059, a fixed moment in time, just as it comes under attack... from water. Caught in the desperate struggle for survival between a group of Earth scientists and the water, the Doctor ponders if this is the end of 'his song'.

1.30-3.45pm THE END OF TIME

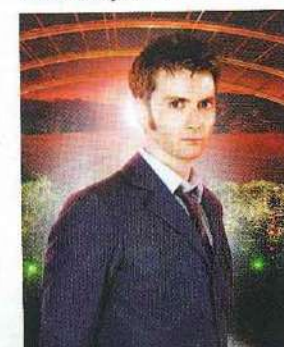
In the strife for immortality, an old enemy is resurrected but triggers an ancient trap. "A shadow is falling over Creation... something vast is stirring in the dark. The darkness heralds only one thing... the End of Time itself!" The finale of all finales – the final two parts of the song of the Tenth Doctor.



Planet's die!!



Water always wins.



His song is ending.

New Happier Hours

Monday's Imported Beer
from 6 pm – 8 pm all outlets!

Draught imported beers
discount THB 40/ pint
THB 20/ 1/2 pint

Bottled imported beers
discount THB 20/ bottle

Wednesday's Local Beers & House Pouring Spirits
From 6pm – 8 pm all outlets!

Draught local beers
discount THB 40/pint
THB 20/ 1/2 pint

House bottled local beers
discount THB 20/bottle

Pouring spirits discount THB 20
(Gin, whisky and vodka)

KHUN LAAK'S ON THE MENU

Another beautiful menu of food recipes, all served this month at the Club. Pop on in to the F&B outlets if you don't have the time – or inclination, for that matter – to make these delicious delicacies yourself. Let us do the heavy lifting!

Baked Trout and Potatoes with a Crème Fraîche, Walnut and Horseradish Sauce

Serves 4.

455g/1lb potatoes, peeled and finely sliced • olive oil • salt and freshly ground black pepper • 4 whole trout, approx. 400-455g/14oz-1lb each, gutted and scaled • 1 heaped tablespoon grated fresh horseradish • 255g/9oz crème fraîche • 2 handfuls of fresh walnuts, shelled and crushed • juice of 1 lemon; optional: a little fresh thyme, leaves picked • 1 lemon, sliced

Preheat the oven to 240°C/475°F/gas 9. Dry your sliced potatoes with kitchen paper and lightly coat in olive oil. Season and place in a single layer in a large roasting tray. Place on a low oven shelf and roast for around 15 minutes, until crisp and golden.

Meanwhile pat the trout dry, then with a sharp knife, slash each fish at an angle on both sides – this will allow the heat and seasoning to penetrate. Rub with olive oil and seasoning. For extra flavour, you can stuff the fish with fragrant herbs. I like to use thyme with some lemon slices too. This should only take a couple of minutes. Cook for around 12 minutes at the top of the oven until crisp and golden.

While the fish and potatoes are cooking, make your sauce. Fresh horseradish, which you should peel and grate, is nicer, but you can also use the creamed horseradish bought in jars. Not quite as hot but still tasty. Mix the horseradish in a bowl with the crème fraîche and the walnuts, and season well. Squeeze over some lemon juice to taste. Serve the fish and potatoes side by side with a good lob of the crème fraîche sauce.



Couscous with Grilled Summer Vegetables and Herbs

Serves 4.

255g/9oz couscous • 285ml/½ pint cold water • 3 red peppers • 1 handful of asparagus, trimmed and peeled if need be • 2 or 3 small firm courgettes/patty pans, sliced • 1 small bunch of spring onions, trimmed and finely sliced • 2-4 fresh red chillies, deseeded and finely sliced • 3 good handfuls of mixed fresh herbs (basil, coriander, mint, flat-leaf parsley) • 2 x olive oil and lemon juice dressing • salt and freshly ground black pepper • red wine vinegar

Place the couscous in a bowl with the cold water. This will start to soften the couscous and you will see the water disappear as it soaks in. While the couscous is softening, blacken the peppers on all sides by placing the peppers directly onto the naked flame of the gas hob and turning when needed. If you don't have gas, then blacken under the grill. When fully blackened, place in a sandwich bag, wrap in clingfilm or cover in a bowl for 5 minutes until cool. This will steam the skins and make peeling and deseeding easier. Remove the skins and seeds and roughly chop.

On a very hot ridged grill pan, lightly char the asparagus and courgettes or patty pans on both sides then toss them into the bowl of couscous with the peppers, spring onions, chillies and ripped-up herbs. Mix well. Add the olive oil and lemon juice dressing and toss well. Finally, taste and season with salt and pepper and a couple of dribbles of red wine vinegar for a slight twang.



Creamy Asparagus Soup with a Poached Egg on Toast

Serves 8.

800g asparagus, woody ends removed • olive oil • 2 medium white onions, peeled and chopped • 2 sticks of celery, trimmed and chopped • 2 leeks, trimmed and chopped • 2 litres good-quality chicken or vegetable stock • sea salt and freshly ground black pepper • 10 small very fresh free range or organic eggs • 8 slices of ciabatta bread • a knob of butter • extra virgin olive oil

Chop the tips off the asparagus and put to one side for later. Roughly chop the asparagus stalks. Get a large, deep pan on the heat and add a good glug of olive oil. Gently fry the onions, celery and leeks for around 10 minutes, until soft and sweet, without colouring. Add the chopped asparagus stalks and stock, and simmer for 20 minutes with a lid on. Remove from the heat and blitz with a hand-held blender or in a liquidizer. Season the soup bit by bit (this is important) with salt and pepper until just right. Put the soup back on the heat, stir in the asparagus tips, bring back to the boil and simmer for a few more minutes until the tips have softened.

Just before serving the soup, get a wide casserole-type pan on the heat with 8 to 10cm of boiling water. Using really fresh eggs, very quickly crack all 10 into the water. Don't worry about poaching so many at the same time. They don't have to look perfect. A couple of minutes and they'll be done, as you want them to be a bit runny. Toast your ciabatta slices. Using a slotted spoon, remove all the poached eggs to a plate and add a knob of butter to them. To serve, divide the soup between eight warmed bowls and place a piece of toast into each. Put a poached egg on top, cut into it to make it runny, season and drizzle with extra virgin olive oil.

Lychee Delight

Serves 1.

4 pieces lychee in syrup • ¾ oz fresh lime juice • ¼ pieces grenadine syrup • 4 oz water • cracked ice

Place all the ingredients to be blended, including the cracked ice, in blender. Blend for 1-2 minutes. Pour into glass.



Passion Meringue Pie

Serves 8-10.

Plain flour, for dusting • 500g rich shortcrust pastry; Filling: 12 passion fruits • 4 tbsp cornflour • 140g/5oz golden caster sugar • 4 egg yolks; Meringue: 4 egg whites • 200g/8oz golden caster sugar



Heat oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas 6. Dust the work surface with a little flour, then roll the pastry out to the thickness of a £1 coin. Use to line a deep, 23cm loose-bottom flan tin and chill until firm. Line with greaseproof paper and a layer of baking beans, then bake for 20 minutes. Remove the paper and beans, then return to the oven for 5 minutes until pale golden in colour. Leave to cool.

For the filling, cut the passion fruit in half, then scoop the pulp of 10 into a sieve over a large jug. Rub the pulp and juice through the sieve; discard the seeds. Scoop the pulp and seeds of the remaining fruit into the juice. You should now have 150ml in total, so make up with orange juice if you don't have enough. In a pan, mix the cornflour with the sugar, then gradually stir in 200ml cold water followed by the passion fruit. Cook over a medium heat, stirring, until the mixture boils and thickens. Take the pan off the heat and whisk the yolks into the hot mixture.

Reduce oven to 180°C/fan 160°F/gas 4. For the meringue, whisk the egg whites into stiff peaks, then gradually whisk in the sugar until thick and glossy. Reheat the filling briefly, then spread over the pastry base. Spoon the meringue over the filling, starting from the pastry edge and working your way into the middle, then gently swirl the spoonfuls together. Bake for 20 minutes until the meringue is lightly golden. Serve warm or cold.

Strawberry Delight

Serves 1.

300g fresh strawberries • 2 tbsp yoghurt • 1 scoop vanilla ice cream • 1 tbsp whipped cream

Cut strawberries in half. Place all the ingredients to be blended, including the scoop of ice cream in a blender. Blend for 1-2 minutes. Pour into glass and top with the cream.



Bangkok
COMMUNITY
Theatre

announces

AUDITIONS

For the March 2010 production of

"Pinocchio"

Bangkok Community Theatre is holding open auditions for English-speaking adults (aged 16+) of any nationality who are interested in performing in the mid-March 2010 production of "Pinocchio" which will be performed as theatre-in-the-round upstairs in the BC's Suriwongse Room. Auditions will be held on Sunday, January 10th, 2010. (See registration details below)

This delightful participation play requires a small cast of adults ready to jump in and interact with the children in the audience as well as a small production team/backstage crew. Casting is flexible and most roles can be played by adult actors/actresses of any age. So if you are over 16 years old, and enjoy the magic of children's theatre, please consider auditioning.

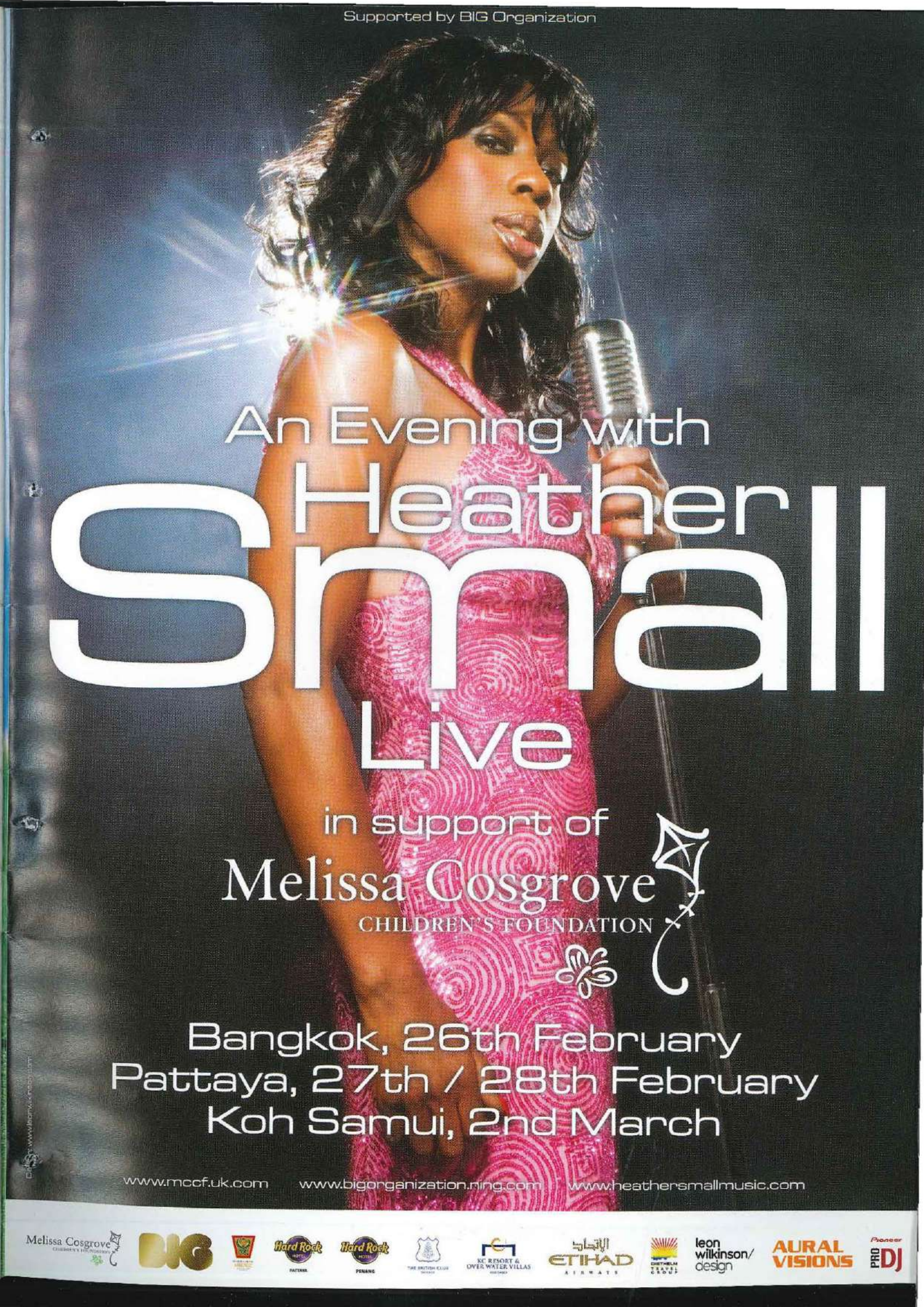
HOW TO REGISTER

Please email bonniez@sala.net with your full name and contact details. Once you have registered, you will receive complete information regarding the audition venue, time, character descriptions, etc. Please visit the BCT website at www.bct-th.org for detailed information about the show.

This version follows the audience participation format of recent BCT productions of "The Emperor's New Clothes", "Puss in Boots," and "Aladdin." Once again we will take the action out into the audience and fill the room with fun and fantasy. Please help us make the magic happen!

*Please note that to ease administration, **EVERYONE** wishing to try out for this show **MUST PRE-REGISTER**. Additionally, if you'd like to volunteer to work backstage or on the production team, please email bonniez@sala.net or call 081 869 1104.

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An Evening with Heather Small Live

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Melissa Cosgrove
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Pattaya, 27th / 28th February
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Lunch Money Locket

You will never lose your lunch money again if you keep it in this homemade – yet eminently stylish – locket made from a common mint tin. Dress up the lid with a toy plastic animal, fake jewels, stickers and more.



Craft Materials

- Small metal mint tin (ours measured roughly 2 inches by 2½ inches; make sure it has a hinged lid to pull a string through or around)
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- String or metallic craft cord (you'll need about a 3-foot length; be sure it's thin enough to fit around or through the tin's hinge so the lid can still close)
- Tacky glue
- Small plastic animal or fake jewels, stickers etc.

Instructions

1. Clean the inside of the tin. Paint the top and let it dry.
2. Thread the string or metallic cord around or through the tin's hinges (depending on the type of tin). Pull both ends of the string tight, so that they fit snugly around the hinge, and then knot them together at the top.
3. Glue plastic animals or jewels to the top of the tin. Let it dry.

Tote-ally Cool

This tubular art tote will keep your projects safe on those masterpiece-crumpling bus rides home.

Craft Materials

- Cardboard mailing tube (found at office supply stores) with two end-caps; our tube is about 25 inches long and 3 inches wide
- Duct tape
- Permanent markers

Instructions

1. Make the strap by unrolling about 40 inches of duct tape and laying it sticky-side-up on a table. Place a second strip of equal length on top of the first, with the sticky side down. Carefully press the two together.
2. Attach the strap to one end of the mailing tube with duct tape. Measure the strap so that it'll fit comfortably across your child's chest, then cut off the excess and attach this end to the tube with tape.
3. Wrap tape around both of the tube's ends a few times. Have your child decorate the tube with permanent markers.



BACK TO SCHOOL JOKES

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Little Johnny wasn't getting good marks in school. One day he surprised the teacher with an announcement. He tapped her on the shoulder and said, "I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says if I don't start getting better grades, somebody is going to get a spanking!"

"Isn't the principal a dummy!" said a boy to a girl.

"Well, do you know who I am?" asked the girl.

"No," replied the boy.

"I'm the principal's daughter," said the girl.

"And do you know who I am?" asked the boy.

"No," she replied.

"Thank goodness!" said the boy with a sign of relief.

A man, in a hurry taking his eight-year-old son to school, made a turn at a red light where it was prohibited.

"Uh-oh, I think I just made an illegal turn!" the man said.

"It's okay, Dad," the boy said. "The police car right behind us did the same thing."

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Little Johnny's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures, tacked to a bulletin board, of the 10 most wanted men. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person.

"Yes," said the policeman. "The detectives want him very badly."

So Little Johnny asked, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"

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