



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Outpost

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

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January 2016

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FRONT COVER

It hasn't been very chilly in either Bangkok or London yet this year, so our cover is a seasonal reminder of how cold it can be, and was several years ago - and it may yet turn out that way for those back home. A rare occasion indeed to see a white blanketed UK!

Cover Picture:
Courtesy of NASA's Earth Observatory

EDITOR'S GREETING

You should be seeing this while the Christmas celebrations are still in full swing and the new year is a week off, so keep enjoying the last moments of 2015!

This month's issue is quite an assortment, from the 2nd part of my interview with HM Consul to the last part of 'As We Were' unless someone can provide some more old pics with narrative.

Here's hoping that 2016 brings you health, happiness and good fortune as well as the best of everything else!

Ed.



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Sunday

17th January 2016

DAY : SUNDAYS

TIME : 2pm - 3pm

AGES : 6-12 YEARS OLD

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MAX : 10 KIDS

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THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the time of writing, the International Schools are about to break up and many of our Members and their families will be going away for the holidays. At the Club it's business as usual and we are in one of the busiest times of the year when our staff will be working literally all hours catering for the many functions culminating in what must be the best "Christmas lunch and dinner in town". This year we are expecting over 420 Members and their guests not to forget all the take-aways! Also for those staying in Bangkok for the holiday period, the Club's New Year Cruise is a fantastic evening out. A truly superb way to see in the New Year!

Last month was extremely busy around the Club and this has reflected again in the Club's performance:

Some financial highlights from November to mid-December

- Revenue from November meant the Club's operations produced another financial surplus before depreciation of some 341,332 baht. Again the Verandah and Alcove revival has continued and these outlets are the top performers. For the first eight months of the new General Committee year this brings us to a surplus before depreciation of approximately 2,720,957 baht in total. These figures exclude membership joining fees.
- The Club's total Cash in Bank position at the end of November was 33.1 million baht. We are now predicting a total Cash in Bank position of approximately 31.5 million baht for the end of December. This decrease in our projected December cash position is partly due to paying annual bonuses to our Staff. In January the cash position will increase substantially due to the additional month Member fees.
- On the Membership front we have had a nett increase in Members and we currently have 1112 Members. Membership is always a key focus of Management attention and our focused external recruitment activities are being increased. The number of new Members being recruited in December is already at 11.
- As part of the continuous improvement of our House and Grounds, we have seen various small improvements being made around the Club in the past month. In a few months' time the back lawn, after the main function period, will have a makeover. Also in the new year, work on cleaning up the interior walls of the downstairs outlets in the Clubhouse will be tackled. Also underway, as we go to print, is the repainting of all the car parking lines.
- The new lighting for the Multi-Purpose Court has now been completed and has made a vast improvement in the lighting levels.
- Exciting times for the young children in the British Club as the new revamped playground has undergone a much-needed and long overdue makeover. There of



Phil Alexander

**Chairman,
General Committee**

course is still much more needed for our Members and their children, and these activities must be dealt with as a priority moving forwards and hopefully will be integrated into the Silom Sala Redevelopment programme.

General Committee

As I mentioned in my last article the General Committee has been looking at the level of the minimum Club financial buffer which is set aside in fixed, annual and rolling savings accounts. In particular, we are concerned that 2016 will bring many new challenges to the Thai business environment. Already some "tell-tale" signs are there and it is possible that we will also face increased political and social challenges. For these reasons the General Committee have decided to increase the minimum financial buffer to **15 million baht**.

With regards to any past and future developments, this and past General Committees where I have served as Chairman have always adopted a prudent financial policy where the financial buffer cannot be used and is there as a reserve.

Our Club performance continues on an upward trend and in December and the coming months we will have a very busy period for functions so we anticipate a further growth in our revenues. The last few years have seen the Club creating a very solid base from which future General Committees will benefit and will be in a position to be driven even further forwards under the guidance of our excellent management team and staff.

The New Year

Your input is always welcome, so if you have any questions or ideas on any areas or aspects of Club development, please feel free to send me an email.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all our Members and their families a very enjoyable holiday period. On behalf of the General Committee I would also like to wish all our Members, their families and of course our staff a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year 2016.



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LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Premrudee Tanyaluck

General Manager

December has been quite a busy month with events and functions, which have kept the staff busy but I hope their service has been ok. Christmas Day is very well booked and should be a good peak for the year. Our New Year's Eve dinner cruise is on an extra large boat this year and there are still places available so please email Khun Jeremy or sign up in Reception.

Recently I had to email you about Security Procedures as it is a very serious matter for the Club. Although some people complained, most feedback suggests that Members understand the need to protect people within the Club premises, and complying with the procedures is of benefit to everyone, so thank you all for supporting us by bringing your member cards and showing stickers in cars. The General Committee meeting included a discussion about security and we are now working on a security plan both short and long term which I will let you know in due course.

There are two annual events during January. On Monday 18th January the monks will come to the Club for a ceremony to bless the Club. Members are welcome to attend this. Then on Monday 25th the Club will be closed all day for the Staff Party outing, so there will be no service in any outlet or staff available for supervision. However, the courts and pool are open for Members to use. This year the staff will be going to the beach at Phetchaburi for the day, to get energy for another good year.

For sports we will start Kids Yoga this month and Khun Amnat plans to create new activities for our kids. For more information please contact our Fitness Centre.

We have finished the lights installation and the floor at the MPC, so the lighting is now much better and up to standard for playing any sport. In between functions our maintenance team has started repainting the lines in the car parks.

At the beginning of February we will have a big Fun Day on Sunday 7th as we will celebrate Chinese New Year and Pancake Day together, so there will be the Dim Sum Buffet, the Lion Dance, and the Pancake Day games and fun on the Back Lawn. Please put it in your diaries.

Thank you for supporting our Club throughout 2015 and for helping make it a friendly and enjoyable place to be. Let's make it even better in 2016.

I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah	11am - 2pm, 5pm - 10pm (Mon-Thurs) 11am - 10pm (Fri-Sun and Public Holidays)		
1910 Balcony	3pm - 11pm (Afternoon Tea 3pm - 5pm)		
Accounts Office	9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri), Closed (Sat-Sun)		
The Pavilion Café	9am - 6pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)
Churchill Bar	10am - 12midnight	Fitness Centre	6am - 9pm (Sat-Sun)
Poolside Bar	6:15am - 11pm Last food orders 9:30pm	Thai Massage	10am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)

1ST JANUARY 2016 ❄️ SILOM SALA ❄️ 12 NOON ONWARDS

POLAR SWIM

HUGE BLOCKS OF ICE WILL BE DROPPED IN THE POOL.
LIKE ICEBERGS FLOATING IN THE ARCTIC WATERS.

THE POOL WATER GETS PRETTY CHILLY.
AND IS INVIGORATING FOR THOSE
WHO SWIM AMONGST THE ICE

COME & SWIM &
REALLY BE COOL!



ALSO AVAILABLE, DELICIOUS THAI BUFFET AND DESSERTS.
WITH MULLED WINE AND YOUR FAVOURITE DRINKS AS USUAL !

HAPPENINGS

Before anything else, a very Happy Christmas to everyone! Last night the temperature at my house was down to 22°C and the security guard was in a duffle-coat - I doubt there's snow on the horizon but there is on the cover of this issue as a reminder of what Christmases of yonder years was like.

This last issue of 2015 is scheduled for delivery on Christmas Day, but don't eat it! There's quite enough on the many buffet tables around the Clubhouse. And there'll be more for dinner too. Such is the nature of the season. But this year Christmas falling on a Friday has been slightly problematic in that so many people have gone back to Europe earlier than usual which means our Annual Ball is not so busy and the printer of Outpost is closing for a week up to New Year so everything was brought forward a week. That was a bit awkward but then there was Bike for Dad, the change in security, a couple of long weekends one of which was a great Father's Day with a lovely buffet, and overall it has been a frenetic month so far with the climax still ahead. No matter!

Early December saw the Bangkok Spoofers holding their annual tournament in the Churchill, reviewed on page 14, and a magnificent Quiz Night which sported two extra rounds, one of which was on retro LPs and movies which earned the winners a bottle of vodka. The other extra round was sort of Christmassy also, but the mood of the contestants and the quizmaster's banter all melded together with excellent effect. The monthly jackpot still wasn't won so that rolls over again.

December's the month for weddings too, but sadly one got too noisy with raucous screeching which we really regret and will ensure doesn't recur. There are a couple more coming up on the back lawn, all fitting in around the Kids Xmas Party and the massive influx of the Christmas Day lunch and dinner as well as other Clubhouse bookings.

It's barely a week until the last day of the year which some of us will see out about an impressive boat chugging along the Chaopraya. Pushing and shoving through enormous crowds of miraculously upright intoxicated revellers whilst being deafened by multiple sources din is not everybody's cup of tea for welcoming a new and hopefully better year, so



Jeremy de Sausmarez

**Events & Marketing
Manager**

the NY Eve Dinner Cruise is a worthy alternative as it's another time to be with people you like and to dine and chill out up to the moment the clocks strike, which they don't but you know what I mean. The boat we booked this year has eradicated all the aspects of last year's which people did not like, so it should be a terrific evening especially as some advance orders for wine are subject to a good discount.

New Year's Day is for many a day of heavy eyelids, but not kids who just want fun, so our Polar Swim in the main swimming pool is ideal as a solution for adults and kids alike. Once again the huge blocks of ice will be plunged into the pool around midday, hopefully in two delayed actions like last year so that the waters stay cool that bit longer.

Later in January there's a buffet and early wine-tasting (see Khun Laak on page 9), and we get a visit from the monks as well as the staff's Annual Party, a rewarding day out for all that wish to go after the travails of the November/December workload. Everybody loves a day on the beach!

The Outpost series 'As We Were' depended on old photos, and Jack Dunford who penned them has exhausted his collection, so if nobody else has any that series looking back at Bangkok as it was will finish. Anyone else who has photos or material they would like to share with Outpost would be welcomed into the contributors list - all it takes is an email to me and we can set up what and how it will appear. Any other contributions are always welcome too.

2015 has been a great year overall, and that's due to your involvement with and support of the Club. Let's work together to making 2016 another great year for the Club. As a start, may the new year bring you all some the dreams you harbour along with health, happiness, and good fortune.



Business Luncheons

4th January - 8th January 2016

Starters : 65 Baht

Chicken and Cranberry Salad with Balsamic Dressing

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 100 Baht

Beef and Mushroom Stroganoff
Served with Yellow Rice

B.B.Q Ham

Served with Sautéed Cabbage, Bacon, Potatoes Salad
and Parsley Cream Sauce

Baked Chicken Breast in Tomato and Cheese Sauce
Served with Roast Vegetables

Gaeng Kiew Wan Look Chin Pla
(Fish Balls in Green Curry Sauce)

Kai Jiew Moo Sub

(Thai Style Minced Pork Omelette)

Phad Kana Nam Man Hoy

(Stir-fried Kale with Oyster Sauce)

11th January - 15th January 2016

Starters : 65 Baht

Tuna Salad

Tuna, Tomatoes, Lemongrass, lime and spicy Dressing

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 100 Baht

Turkey Chilli Con Carne

Served with Rice

Fillet of Pork in Mushroom Sauce

Served with Mixed Vegetables and Lyonnaise Potatoes

Pan-fried Dory Fish in Spicy Herbs

Served with Mixed Salad and Boiled Potato

Gaeng Som Goong Phak Ruam

(Sour Soup with Mixed Vegetables and Prawns)

Moo Tod Kratium Prik Thai

(Stir-fried Pork Fillet with Garlic and Pepper)

Tod Man Pla

(Deep-fried Fishcakes)

18th January - 22nd January 2016

Starters : 65 Baht

Potato Salad with Egg and Lemon Dressing

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 100 Baht

Lamb, Beef and Eggplant Moussaka
Served with Mixed Salad and Garlic Bread

Chicken Kiev with peas and chips

Served with Broccoli, Carrots and Roast Potatoes

Pan-fried Sea Bass with Pernod and Dill Sauce

Tom Yam Goong

(Spicy Lemon Grass Soup with Prawns and Mushrooms)

Pad Khana Nam Man Hoy

(Stir-fried Kale with Oyster Sauce)

Krapao Kai

(Stir-fried Minced Chicken
with Hot Basil and Chilli)

25th January - 29th January 2016

Starters : 65 Baht

Grilled Chicken, Mango, Beetroot Salad

Served with Balsamic Dressing

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 100 Baht

Fish and Chips

Served with Garden Peas and Tartare Sauce

Turkey Lasagne

Served with mixed salad and Garlic Bread

Pork Schnitzel Served with Apple Salad

Panaeng Gai

(Chicken Stir-fried with Red curry Sauce Topped with

Sliced Lime Leaves)

Kai Jiew Moo Sub

(Thai Style Omelette with Minced Pork)

Phad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy

(Stir-fried Mixed Vegetables with Oyster Sauce)

**** Dessert of the Day :Choose from our à la carte Dessert with 10% off**



THE BRITISH CLUB
BRUSSELS

F&B MORSELS

December is keeping the kitchens very busy, and there is still Christmas Day to come which means a lot of food all day! Then more functions and food for the New Year's Dinner Cruise also. I hope you have all had a good and filling month and end to the year!

In January, we will keep the strawberry promotion going as they are in season at the moment. The mince pies will carry on even after the New Year if there is stock and people are ordering them. In January we are starting the Paella promotion again on Wednesdays as it was popular before the Christmas months began, but remember to order a bit in advance to allow cooking time. The Burger Promotion will carry on during January too.

Put in your diaries that we will have an Italian Buffet on Saturday 16th January as the month's special, and

the month's wine-tasting is a week earlier than usual on Friday 22nd to fit around room bookings.

The Thai menus were changed during the first half of December so have a look for some different dishes. The 'Khun Laak Recommends' selection will be updated in January and I will keep turkey dishes in there as long as I can get turkey for them.

I just heard from Khun Prem there is a promotion on Johnnie Walker Gold Label whisky. Delicious with most foods, so Happy New Year!



Khun Laak

Executive Chef



Cocktail of the Month January

Whisky sour



- Only Bt 100 -

*Don't forget Afternoon Tea
is available from 3 pm.*





THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

NEW BY-LAW

APPROVED BY THE GENERAL COMMITTEE 14 DECEMBER 2015

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This policy refers to social networking sites, including but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Chat rooms, Websites, Blogs, Newsgroups.

The Club understands that some Members participate in social networking sites, some of which are created for the benefit of a Section in the Club. The Club respects Members' online social networking and personal Internet use. However, your online presence can affect the Club, as your words, images, logos, posts, and comments can reflect or be attributed to the Club.

As a Member, you should be mindful to use electronic media responsibly and respectfully to others. It shall be considered a breach of acceptable Member conduct to post on any public or private website, any other forum, or any other electronic or print communication format, any of the following:

- (1) Anything that may harm the goodwill or reputation of the Club or any disparaging information about the Club.
- (2) Any derogatory, discriminatory or harassing information concerning any Member, employee, supplier, or other person associated with the Club.
- (3) Any confidential information, or intellectual property of the Club, including information relating to finances, Members, operational methods, plans and policies.
- (4) Any private information relating to a Member or employee of the Club.
- (5) Any images, logos or material that is the property of the Club without first obtaining permission from the Management and General Committee.

Furthermore, Members wishing to run their own Section social networking sites, must provide the URL used for access and obtain permission from the Management and General Committee.

Members who violate the Club's Social Media Policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Rule 73.

HOME AT LAST!

In 1987, an Australian submarine HMAS ONSLOW stopped at Bangkok for 3 or 4 days during its South East Asian deployment. To keep the crew on their toes, a rugby match was organised against some local teams, one of them being the team from the British Club Bangkok. After the rugby match, the players repaired to the Club for some friendly banter and a lot of beer.

Mike Bell was one of the Sonar Officers on the submarine and one of the rugby players. The evening beer flowed in great quantity and before the chaps went back to their sub, they took a few souvenirs (as was the practice in those days) from the Churchill Bar; called "rabbits", these souvenirs were items like plaques off the wall. They got a serious telling off back on the sub from their superiors. Mike had taken a shield which had been presented to the Club from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The trophy went back to HMAS PLATYPUS in Neutral Bay, Sydney and was mounted on the wall of the Junior Sailors Bar where it remained until the base was closed in the mid-90s. To avoid it being boxed up, and maybe still suffering a little guilt over pinching it, Mike secreted it into his safe-keeping, vowing to return it to its rightful location at some time in the future. It moved from Sydney to Penrith in NSW, then on to Adelaide, then to Perth, and then back to Adelaide.



Mike finally returned to Thailand in 2015 and returned it to the Club on 16 December. He was pleased to see it back after 28 years of travels, and so is the Club! Many thanks Mike, your conscience is now clear!

BLOCKING THE BALL

Recently we have started finding an assortment of items inside the various orifices of the Table Football in the Silom Sala. This is in addition to tissues and papers.

See the illustrations.



PLEASE ASK YOUR CHILDREN NOT TO STUFF ANYTHING INTO THE HOLES.
Thanks!

CONSULTING THE CONSUL

A chat with H.M. Consul, Layla Slatter MBE *Part 2*



How relevant is the new document verification process (Outpost October) for British nationals resident in Thailand?

Ideally this would be applicable mainly to people thinking of moving to Thailand, but it's not a new service, it's a clarification of an existing service because the Thai authorities request authenticated documents and the only way to obtain these is through the legalisation process in the UK. In the past we've seen different authorities requesting slightly different things, so to make our advice and service consistent we've publicised this process. We also always advise people to check with the authorities which documents they actually need before they come to us to see if we can process them or need to redirect them. One area where we've found it is often needed is for visas for spouses whose partners are here on a work permit. It may also apply to retirement visas in some cases.

As Thai processes change, some of the requests that the Thai authorities have for foreign nationals here will also change. So part of what we're trying to do is to convey to British people the benefits of sorting out documents before you leave the UK and then if you are already here to allow enough time to do that before, for example, your visa needs to be renewed or whatever it might be. Given the size of the British community in Thailand, there's a lot of people so it does take time. As mentioned before, this may also apply to renewal of retirement visas in some places, or even to documents which would be needed when investing in a holiday property in Thailand. Again, they would need to check with the Thai ministries and see what their requirements are.

What are the main misapprehensions and misunderstandings held by British passport holders?

The most common and overarching misapprehension is around people's expectations of what the UK government and the Embassy and therefore the Consular team can do in terms of intervention on consular issues, such as getting people out of prison, intervening in the judicial process, or pay for them to go back to the UK. In almost all instances, we try and work with charitable organisations and NGOs who can provide support to people. We will always try and help people find a way but the Embassy or the British Government cannot pay for people. The other misperception is that people who live here can return to the UK whenever they want to access services such as medical health care which they may no longer be entitled to having lived overseas for such a long time. It's not an area that's black and white, there are many different factors and criteria which are considered, so it's difficult to state its boundaries but clearly not everyone is eligible to return to the UK and access those services. For us, this often means people come to us for assistance because they've found out too late they can't claim in the UK and they haven't got insurance to get it done here, and they're stuck because they need urgent medical attention. Unfortunately we're seeing a growing number of those cases here, so insurance is really important.

So what happens when there's a disaster and someone loses everything?

Our crisis response planning is quite sophisticated in Thailand as you would expect because of the risks here but a lot is handled on a global scale by the Foreign Office which has a large crisis management department in London so if there were a major event here in Thailand such as a tsunami, that would trigger all kinds of processes such as sending out rapid deployment teams of people who have been trained to respond to incidents like this, and they head to the areas in order to help British people who are caught up in it. As part of the Embassy, our role would be to plug into the local authorities and helping British people access services and assistance through those as well. There are of course many contingency plans prepared in anticipation of major events which may occur, and we are trying to build up our network of organisations through whom we can dispense information and assistance to British nationals in the event of such an event taking place.

Are a large number of British nationals registered with the Embassy?

We don't have a registration system so the answer is 'No', we used to but then about 4 years ago we shut it down, because fewer than 1% of British nationals who lived or travelled in Thailand registered with us. It became obvious in 2011 when I was in London working on the Japanese tsunami crisis that the enormous amount of time taken in trying to contact people who were registered could have been spent helping people. Much of the registration data was out of date or incorrect or insufficient, and in the end we found that none of the people on the list were actually in the affected area so it had not been time well spent. Registration could only be voluntary, we couldn't collect any data without permission and many people didn't want to provide it, and the

administration and upkeep of a partial list was so time-consuming it was not worthwhile and not an effective tool for us. What is effective is social media, on a just-in-time rather than a just-in-case approach, so rather than capture a lot of information that's going to be useless in the event of a crisis, what we do now is push messages out through social media, through our networks, through trusted organisations that we work with, so we can say in a very short Twitter message for example, if you're affected by this incident then call this number and it will bring you straight through to our hotline in London which is staffed 24/7 and you can get help, and then we can be there on the scene in a very short space of time. So now we respond to people that need the help rather than spending time trying to contact people who probably won't be there. We can gauge a rough idea of how many people there are from visa statistics, and from organisations a rough idea of where they are, for use if and when an incident occurs.

Any other message from the British Consul to the British Members of the Club and their friends?

We do very much welcome feedback from anyone who either uses our services or has come into contact with us because we want to hear about your experiences and do genuinely take on board feedback in order to improve our services.

Which is the best channel for feedback?

We have a feedback email address which is: feedback.consular.services@fco.gov.uk and that will come through to us, and as we continue to streamline and modernise and improve our services, constructive feedback is an important part of that process.

Finally, what would you like to hear said about the Consular Section in Bangkok during your tenure that would make you feel you had accomplished your objectives?

I would like to hear that people needing routine services have had a positive experience and that they were dealt with efficiently and they got what they needed, and on the consular assistance side, that we've helped deal with their situation and our staff were empathetic, and that they were accurately signposted to the authorities and people who could best help and support them.



Promotion 2016

Minimum 2 people, your choice of:

Mixed Seafood Bt 495, Chicken Bt 470, Vegetarian Bt 450

Every Wednesday. Available from every outlet

*Order 30 minutes in advance to allow for cooking

SPOOFERS CELEBRATE!

27 YEARS OF SOCIAL INTERCOURSE AND CHARITY



Recently, the Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers once again held its Thai National Spoofing Championship in the Churchill Bar of the British Club. It was a lovely evening and our dear friend, Christian “The Hood” Henrich was anointed 27th Thai National Spoofing Champion (see photos on facing page).

For those who do not know Spoofing, it is an ancient game of chance, played for hundreds of years by gentlemen who tend to exaggerate (outright lying is forbidden, although not unknown). Players hold an unknown number of coins in their hands and attempt to guess the sum of all the players. Correct guessing allows one to leave the match, with the last man in as the sponsor for that round of drinks.

The Bangkok School of Spoofers is the longest active running Spoofing school in Asia, celebrating its twenty-seventh year. It was started at the British Club in the Old Churchill Bar by our four founding brothers (names long forgotten). Spoofing culture has an elaborate collection of protocol and language which must be followed. Any violation is fined harshly by the Chairman, whose word is final and indisputable. Calls are code-named with Flowers, Mission from Heaven, and German Virgin some of the most used. All Spoofers have nicknames, Sugar Butt and Hairy Potato, two of most recently deemed and honoured.

Spoofers at the British Club come from a wide variety of nations and backgrounds - businessmen, retirees, even past and present Chairmen of the British Club. Spoofers of note in recent history include Sir Paul McCartney, Claus Von Bulow, Sid Vicious and of course, most famously, Churchill himself.

Whilst Spoofing is very much an evening dedicated to social intercourse, we also support a charitable fund which is dedicated to bettering the lives of underprivileged Thai children. Spoofers have donated millions of baht over the years to worthy causes including the Sarnelli House orphanage for HIV positive children and the Pisamai Fund which helps with education expenses for children of British Club employees.

Our most recent project was to build a dormitory for children in Mae Hong Son Province in cooperation with the Samsara Foundation (see photos on facing page).

The Muang Pang School has a kindergarten, a primary school and very importantly a middle school. This means that this is a key school for the children who finished the last grade at six of the other primary schools in the mountains of Pai district to continue their studies at one of the few middle schools in the region.

Until now 60 students had great difficulties to study at this school as the school does not have enough dormitories for them. To give hill tribe students, who do not live very near the school, a chance to continue their study at a middle school, this middle school needs more boarding facilities.

Thanks to the Spoofers donation, 40 of them can now stay in this newly built dormitory and focus on their studies rather than travel hours each day. Furthermore, two teachers and caretakers can also now stay in a clean room. The students are from Karen, Tat Yai, Hmong, Lahu and Lisu ethnic backgrounds.

The Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers meet each Tuesday at 8PM in the Churchill Bar. Please join us.



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

BC Calendar January 2016



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK



4

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



5

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm



**Bangkok Gentlemen
Spoofers** 8:30pm

Yoga Course
9:15am - 10:30am
Beginner's Course



6

**Ladies Tennis
Coaching**
9am - 10:30am



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



11

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



12

**Squash
Mix-In**
5:15pm - 7:30pm



Yoga Course
9:15am - 10:30am
Beginner's Course

**Bangkok
Gentlemen
Spoofers** 8:30pm

Quiz Night
7:15pm The Verandah



13

**Ladies Tennis
Coaching**
9am - 10:30am



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



18

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



19

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm



Yoga Course
9:15am - 10:30am
Beginner's Course

**Treasury
Work Group**
2pm, Silom Room

**Bangkok
Gentlemen
Spoofers** 8:30pm



20

**Ladies Tennis
Coaching**
9am - 10:30am



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



25

**Club Closed
for
Staff Party**

26

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm



**Bangkok Gentlemen
Spoofers** 8:30pm

Yoga Course
9:15am - 10:30am
Beginner's Course



27

**Ladies Tennis
Coaching**
9am - 10:30am



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



1

Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm

Junior Tennis Coaching

4pm - 6pm

Polar Swim

12Noon onwards

Silom Sala



2

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon



3

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon

Sunday Brunch

11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge

2pm Silom Room



7

Squash Mix-In

5:15pm - 9:45pm



8

Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm

Junior Tennis Coaching

4pm - 6pm



9

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon



10

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon

Sunday Brunch

11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge

2pm Silom Room



14

Squash Mix-In

5:15pm - 9:45pm



F & B Work Group

3pm, The Alcove

15

Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm

Junior Tennis Coaching

4pm - 6pm



16

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon

Italian Buffet

11:30 - 3pm

5pm - 9pm

The Verandah



17

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon

Sunday Brunch

11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge

2pm Silom Room

Yoga for Kids

2pm - 3pm Poolside



21

Squash Mix-In

5:15pm - 9:45pm



22

Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm

Junior Tennis Coaching

4pm - 6pm

Wine Tasting

6pm - 9pm

Surawongse Room



23

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon



24

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon

Sunday Brunch

11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge

2pm Silom Room

Yoga for Kids

2pm - 3pm Poolside



28

Squash Mix-In

5:15pm - 9:45pm



29

Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm

Junior Tennis Coaching

4pm - 6pm



30

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon



31

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am

Swimming Lessons

9am - 12noon

Sunday Brunch

11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge

2pm Silom Room

Yoga for Kids

2pm - 3pm Poolside



AS WE WERE

Well I have run out of British Club pictures but thought some people might be interested in a few of Patana School from the late 1970's' early 1980s. There were only 3 international Schools in Bangkok in those days and Patana was the only one teaching the British system. It only went to age 12 however and most BC Members sent there kids back home to boarding school. The school was conveniently in town just off Rama IV. My visits to the school were as a dutiful parent for sports days, national days, nativity plays and such like. There was no auditorium so all performance took place in the entrance and the small sports field was always in action.



Jack Dunford



Christmas



A favourite teacher; Mrs Mercer



Dutiful Mums and dads



TENNIS

Bruce Gordon Cup

On Saturday 19 November, the second Bruce Gordon Cup event was held under balmy blue skies and golden sunshine. After a few late dropouts we started the day with 28 players in 4 leagues and about 150 multi-coloured balloons ready to be popped as the free points were gratefully taken to secure those difficult games. Throughout the day, we had 4 mini leagues playing and by mid afternoon we had our semi finalists being, Mike/Kwan, Roger/Steve, Dmitry/Philip and Chalatip/Phairoj.



Tony Moore



Our winners Khun Chalatip and Khun Phairoj

In a closely fought final the Thailand dream team pairing of Khun Chalatip and Khun Phairoj remarkably came from behind to win 9-8 in the tie break. Despite the best efforts of Khun Kwan (I never stop running) and Mike (I often think about running) Stead, the virtuoso performance of Khun Chalatip, who somehow managed to carry her younger and tiring partner, Khun Phairoj through to a well earned victory. In the third place play off, Roger (the athlete) White and the ever youthful Steve Goode (who flew in from New York for the event) overcame spirited opposition from Dimitry and Philip Mock.



The full team



Our finalists and semi finalists



Huge thanks to Amnat for his support

We are pleased to confirm that the Bruce Gordon Cup event raised THB 28,026 and the tennis committee agreed to round this up and donate a total of THB 30,000 to the club Pisamai charity fund which supports staff children in helping to meet their educational needs, in terms of books, uniforms etc.

Annual British Club Championships

We are pleased to announce that the 2016 Championships will begin at the end of January and continue through to the finals on Saturday 26 March. As before we should have some nice prizes for winners and losers alike and we will run competitions for Mens and Ladies Singles, Mens and Ladies Doubles and a Mixed Doubles event.

Please register your interest and partner if you have one for the doubles events with Khun Amnat or Khun Rit in the gym. If you don't have a partner yet not to worry because we will find one for you.



HARD BALLS

It's been a busy period in the BC camp as the wheels of the 2015/16 season start to turn. No less than 3 outdoor games have been played since the Phuket tour - including a very well earned victory, two half-centuries, and Rahul cooked some pasta.

The Bangkok cricket league hosted the BC squad amongst other teams at the annual awards night. A friendly welcome back into old territory and return of BC's league cricket career was marked with a fancy social dinner in late November. Elsewhere, back on home turf; Fireball series 6 was stoked up and hosed out quicker than you can say 'mankad' with a turbocharged format and shiny new sponsor.



Ben Eastwell



Have another one Pat



Team night out



BCL selfie

BFF game Harrow 8th Nov Giles Cullingford Trophy

Although the new season had officially started, this game was the last game of the 2014/15 season as the GC league began in September (these things happen when the match calendar is so full!) The match was a play-off game to try and avoid the bottom spot against fireball champions and newly formed outdoor team BFF.

BFF won the toss and went into bat first on the increasingly familiar Harrow ground in its usual fine, hot conditions. The opening pair took immediate advantage of the short square boundaries and the guy with the orange shoes was back in the team tent from only 21 balls, after retiring on 55 in style. Even with Vaughany keeping spirits alive behind the stumps, a second 21 ball 50 really helped BFF dig in to the match and post a colossal total of 225-4. Dilip donned the best bowling figures with 1-23 from 3 overs, Ben, Sunish and Ed also picked up a wicket each.

The run rate required at over 11 an over was always going to impose pressure from the start. Ben and Rahul put on 17 and 16 respectively, making room for the man on form Dale, who confidently claimed he was going to beat the 21 ball 50. He was unfortunately cut off at 37 from 16 balls - the display not lacking its usual arsenal of big hitting. The captain, as did most of the rest of the team, fell to clinical fielding from BFF, who took every chance they could get. Special mention to Shiv, who proved his place on the team with 14 runs including 2 composed boundaries. BC valiantly finished on 135-9, a somewhat unworthy loss of 90 runs to close the season.



Hold it Shiv



Great partners



Who cares if we're losing



Billy bowden junior

Fireball series 6 - November

The BC back lawn was host once more to the sixth instalment of indoor rules fireball action. BC were looking to sharpen up performances after some intensive coaching clinics generously run by Adrian and Tony Chisholm. Despite a clear improvement in all aspects of the game, the refreshed team only managed to gather 5 skin points, only ever coming close to a win... albeit close enough to taste victory. Tony rightfully set the example with 127 (SR:244) series runs, but more importantly not a single out - some say he is still sliding today. Rahul smashed the second highest runs total with 73 (SR:261) from 28 balls. On the bowling side of things, Rahul and Ben were the only series players to keep an economy rate of less than 2 runs per ball. Finals night and the usual spread of food and beers rounded off the tournament, perhaps with the newly installed court lighting upgrade coupled with continued training will see BC off the bottom spot next time around... Series 7 dates TBA.



Fireball finalists

Pangolin Harrow 22nd November

BC hosted the Malaysian based Pangolin side at Harrow at the end of the visitor's Bangkok tour; leaving most players in a suitable condition for BC, hungry to pounce on their first victory of the season. British club managed to defeat the Pangolin side last season and had put out a strong team to hopefully repeat the occasion.

Dale won the toss and put the BC boys into bat first for the 25 over clash. Ben (51*) and Nachi (48) held a solid partnership of 83 before Nachi fell to Pangolin's opening wicket – an unfortunate 2 runs from his 50. Mossy (31) and Dale (37) then stepped on and played their role in supercharging the innings, facing only 22 balls between them. At the 22 over mark, Ben finally retired with his first half century for BC. Rahul contributed a quick 23 at the end to bring BC to a strong closing position of 210 – 4.

2 Maiden overs started the bowling spell, and Patrick struck gold in his 2nd over – removing one of the opening pair with a vicious nip back off the seam. The bowling was rotated throughout the squad with every player sending in at least one over. Figures were sharp and every bowler took a wicket, until Ryan came into the attack anyway. Needless to say, BC were on top from the outset and managed to finish up with a lead of over 100 runs. A well-deserved win and first victory mark for the new season, nice to see BC on the other side of the fence for a change.

Keep your hats on for next month's issue which will report on the first knock of the season down in Pattaya, the legendary Marshall Trophy match, and BC's opening league match against BKK strikers.



Aseem in the mix



Pangolin on tour

**Tue 12th
January 2016**
The Verandah, 7.15 pm

QUIZ NIGHT

***With the
MONTHLY
JACKPOT**

**Teams
≤ 6**

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Guests Bt 150**

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SQUASHY BITS

My Rod Carter Plate Final!

Hi there, I'm Marc and I've been asked to compose this report on the recent Rod Carter competition. Well, in fact, I insisted on writing it as my company, Aspira Hospitality International, incorporating iCheckinn Hotels and Resorts, co-sponsored it for the first time this year (check out our websites and maybe we can do some business together), and I also made it to one of the finals of the event so I thought it appropriate that I write the column. The other sponsor was ACA Pacific, by the way, which is Peter's company and tends to support the Rod Carter annually.



Anyway, it was a great competition featuring dozens of players from various squash clubs around the capital and, of course, from the British Club. Peter wrote a report on the finals which reads:

The RC finals were played last Friday evening with Veerapatchr defeating Marc Sayer 3-2 in the plate final. Marc was 2-0 down and match point in the third, but managed to win the third and fourth games only to go



Marc Sayer

down in the fifth. Marc had great difficulty in managing Veerapatchr's style of play which proved to be the winning style on the day.

Poowis defeated Chatchawin 3-0 in the final in a very intense, high standard game which I personally thought was the best final I have seen them play together. Poowis managed to find an extra level in the final game and was able to prevent a Chatchawin fight back. It was a privilege to watch for the many lucky spectators present. A very well done to both players for an awesome match.

I was very happy to give Peerapon the lucky draw prize. He has always supported all our tournaments in the years since I have known him and was a popular winner.

Thank you all for participating in the Rod Carter and also for your help with marking. Thanks to Terry for his assistance in the finals. The tournament was a great success which only happens with your support.

See you next year.

Warmest regards

Peter Corney



Personally, I think Peter's comments are a little dull and don't really focus on me enough. After all, I did sponsor the event. I mean, come on, I don't think it could have taken place without my help this year (*what about all the previous years it took place without your help? Peter*). My company did so much to make the Rod Carter what it was this year and as, I said, I made it to the finals, to the Plate final, in fact, so I deserve the focus and credit.

Now, before I go any further I'd just like to clear up any allegations of foul play or conflict of interest since some have very unfairly claimed I was 'given an easy passage' to the final as part of the sponsorship deal. Now, I know we're in Thailand and corruption is rife here and there's this FIFA nonsense, and all that, but I've never heard anything so ridiculous in all my life. I played my way there fair and square!



So let's talk about my final then. I was very pleased to play so well in the earlier rounds and to meet Veerapatchr in the last round of the Plate. I felt particularly proud as my company was a sponsor of the event. Did I mention that? Not sure if I did. Anyway, well, I had played some of my best squash to get to the final as I had lost tons of weight in the run up to the competition and was feeling fit and sharp. But, you should have seen me a few months ago. Matey, was I big! About 120kgs. Way too heavy. And that's not healthy at all. And besides that, with my oriental looks

- my mum is from Hong Kong - I was starting to look like a sumo wrestler! So I went on a crash diet, started exercising like mad and it paid off. I was in the Plate final!



The old Me!

Now what happened in my final? Well, as you can probably tell, I'm a fairly confident chap. You have to be if you're in business like me. And I'm a proper business man, let me tell you. I've had tons of businesses over the years and I've done tons of deals so I know what business is all about (*and most of them went belly-up! Bruce*). Some say I'm cocky and arrogant, but I like to think I'm just very sure of myself and know what I want. I'm a Man Utd fan as well and, well, when you support one of the biggest and most successful football clubs in the world, you tend to get a bit full of yourself. However, they've not been doing so well recently so perhaps I'd better shut up about them and stick to the squash! So, I was in the Plate final and sure I'd win because I'm generally a confident guy, but something happened in the first two games and I just fell apart. I could barely hit the ball.

Veerapatchr is a fairly good player, but not that prolific, yet I couldn't even get my racket on the ball. All my fellow BC players were there in the gallery ready to cheer me on and I was playing the worst squash of my life. I barely won a point those first two games and was about to get thrashed 3-0. Where had my game gone? Where was my confidence? The nerves had got to me, hadn't they? I couldn't believe it. Me, Marc Sayer, the business man and Man Utd fan nervous and under pressure! Not something I was used to. But there it was, I was a wreck and had to do something quick or my reputation was going to be in tatters. So what did I do? Well, I quickly slipped into businessman mode and I did a deal because I'm a businessman and I do deals.

Don't tell Peter or the others this, but during the break between games two and three I had a word with my opponent, Veerapatchr, and offered him a 50% discount on any room in any of my hotels or resorts for the next twelve months if he let me win the next two games and then I said we'd both take our chances in the fifth. Personally, I thought he wouldn't be interested as he looked a fairly honest sort of bloke, but he was keen. In fact, he said he'd let me win the next three games if I gave him a 100% discount - basically, stay for free. I did give that some thought, but couldn't go that far; I



RC losing semi-finalists



Poowis and dad Peerapon



No conflict of interest!



Peerapon wins some cash!



RC runner-up Win



RC Winner Poowis!



Veerapatchr with 50% off!

am a business man, after all. So we agreed on the two games for 50% deal and back on court I leveled the match at 2-2. No one was any the wiser as Veerapatchr and I engineered a match point for him to make it look realistic, and as far as everyone else was concerned, my game was back on track and my pride was restored.

50% OFF

However, in the fifth, I just couldn't hold it together and, I suppose, Veerapatchr was the deserving winner. Now I have to honour my deal and give him the 50% off the room rate. I hope he doesn't expect to book a room somewhere every week. I could just bankrupt the company. I've done it before. Sometimes in business measures like that are necessary. I'll have a think about that.

Oh by the way, in the main final Poowis beat Win 3-0.

Marc Sayer



The BCB Squash Section would like to acknowledge Boots Retail Thailand as its sponsor for 2015. Boots Retail Thailand kindly sponsored the 2014 Rod Carter Open, the BCB Squash Section's open squash competition, and has agreed to support the section throughout 2015. Boots Retail Thailand has numerous branches throughout the country supplying high quality cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Many thanks to Boots Retail Thailand.



BCGS

GOLFING NEWS

NOVEMBER ACTION



Tony Moore

Well it was all happening in November, not only the Annual golf championships held in that retirement haven called Cha-am near Hua Hin, we also had the monthly medal event at the Royal and many members supported the Hit It For Hope charity event organised by those splendid ladies in the British Women's Group whose chairman is the very fetching Gina Christie.

Annual BC Golf Championships Cha-am

The Golf Championships didn't start well (literally) for those doyens (some say bandits) of the golf section Mr and Mrs Moore, when at 3pm Friday afternoon their car refused to start and they were stranded. This had nothing to do with the fact that the car hadn't been serviced for 2 years and Tony had forgotten that car batteries in Thailand apparently need an occasional top up of de-min water. Fiona Weber wasn't too impressed either as she was expecting chauffeur driven luxury that Friday afternoon and quickly slung her hook over to Jack and Susan Buchan for reliable BMW service.

A full house of Championship winners



By Saturday things were back on track. A full and fragrant turnout pitched up at Springfield Village Golf and Spa for 2 days of brilliant golf. After a weekend of spectacular driving, chipping and putting or if you are down amongst the 20+ handicappers it was, hacking, shanking and pulling it (ooh-err missus) the ever youthful Randall Coleman (marrying your caddy really does work!) won the Gross (158 over 2 days) with Graham Johnston managing to win the Net (150 over 2 days). An extra bonus for everyone - Graham managed to turn up on time for the first time in 2015 and wearing both shoes.



For the ladies Tracy Carter won the Gross competition with a score of 180 and Bee Elliot won the ladies net with a score of 151.

All in all, a fabulous weekend made even more memorable when the handicap secretary (or fat controller as some call him) managed to stop himself hitting his caddie with his 7-iron after he put a second ball in the water with no one to blame but himself.

BWG Hit It For Hope Charity Event – Thana City

On Friday 20th November the fabulously manic Deborah Farrar, Thana City networking specialist Sharon Moore and professional expat Jayne Carney organised this BWG charity event. It was sponsored by many leading companies in Thailand and the British Club very generously sponsored a hole. A tremendous effort led and coordinated by Deb Farrar and her top team has to be fully commended in finding, securing and negotiating sponsorship on each of the holes. Many BC members supported the event including Carol-Ann, Frank, Karen, Yurachat, Fiona, Brian, Varghese, Marc, Tony etc, the event raised THB 230,000 for childrens' charities in Thailand.

BC November Medal Competition – Royal, Lad Krabang

In Flight A, that lovely lady called Irin won the final event of the month. She is such a game girl that to give the old men in the top flight a chance, she plays off the white tees alongside them. This has its plusses and minuses. On the plus side, the men are happy because she doesn't automatically get a 50 yard advantage off the women's red tee, but the minuses are very significant:

- a) she hits the ball nearly as far as the men which can intimidate some of these older fellows of a nervous disposition,
- b) she has no interest in discussing the latest edition of Strictly Come Dancing which stops the men discussing what shirt Gleb is wearing this week and why Darcy was such a good ballet dancer before she became a judge alongside Bruno, Craig and Len

In Flight B, that well known tennis player Tony Moore once again smashed his way to the top of the golf leaderboard and the fat controller for the second month, in a row, cut his handicap. Some might ask was this truly justified or was it a devious method to get the fat controller further up the Royal eclectic scoreboard?



You have all done very very well

Matchplay semi-final

Finally, Mrs Sharon Moore in her match-play semi-final against Marc Broulette blew him out of the water with a barnstorming 5&4 win. She then told him he could finish on his own (another 'ooh err missus') as she was off to have a latte and a cup-cake at Emquartier – you go girl! Karen Carter and Steve Monical can be heard shaking in their boots as to who will play her in the final.

BRIDGE

Bridge Results for August - October 2015

EVENT	RANK	NAME (PAIR)	SCORE%
Sunday 2nd August (11 pairs)	1st tied	Usha & Lait	58.33%
	1st tied	Michael Winckless & Leo	58.33%
Sunday 9th August (12 pairs)	1st	Dr. Apithai & Prarop	65.56%
	2nd	Chalernpol & Dr. Worrawat	64.07%
Sunday 16th August (11 pairs)	1st	Dr. Apithai & Prarop	64.06%
	2nd	Michael Winckless & Leo	63.02%
Sunday 23rd August (12 pairs)	1st	Mike & Don	61.48%
	2nd	Dr. Apithai & Prarop	59.26%
Sunday 30th August (10 pairs)	1st	Dr. Apithai & Prarop	61.11%
	2nd	Michael Winckless & Helmer	55.56%
Sunday 6th September (11 pairs)	1st	Audrie & Jonathan Sill	61.46%
	2nd	Chalernpol & Dr. Worrawat	57.81%
Sunday 13th September (12 pairs)	1st	Dr. Apithai & Prarop	61.11%
	2nd	Helmer & Maud	55.93%
Sunday 20th September (10 pairs)	1st	Dr. Prasart & Prasert	61.11%
	2nd	Manthanee & Erik	57.41%
Sunday 4th October (12 pairs)	1st	Manthanee & Watana	64.44%
	2nd	Chalernpol & Dr. Worrawat	56.67%
Sunday 11th October (11 pairs)	1st	Daksha & Dr. Apithai	61.98%
	2nd	Michael Winckless & Helmer	60.19%
Sunday 18th October (11 pairs)	1st	Dr. Apithai & Steve	68.23%
	2nd	Michael Winckless & Helmer	55.09%
Sunday 25th October (7 pairs)	1st	Martin Carter & Helmer	62.50%
	2nd	Pornsilpa & Arbha	58.33%

TAKE-AWAY



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BANGKOK



Did you know that most items on the Club's menus are available for take-away?

You can order in person from any outlet, straight from the menu.

Or order by telephone from the take-away menu on the website.

Bulk orders available from Khun Somboon.



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FRIDAY 22nd JANUARY 2016

6pm - 9pm, SURAWONGSE ROOM

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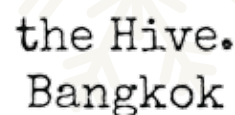


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