



Outpost

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- Christmas '97: the Ball, the Carols and Much More
- Children's Fun Day, Sleepover and Xmas Party
- Meet the New Australian Ambassador
- Seeing in the New Year à la BC

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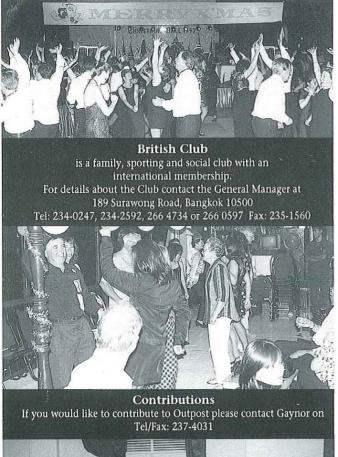


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The Outpost Magazine The contents of this magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, the General Committee or the management.



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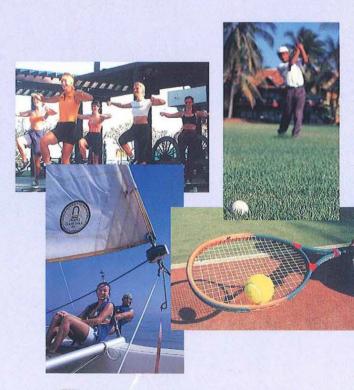
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#### From the Editor

ere it is - the new-look Amazing Outpost, coinciding with the start of the twoyear Amazing Thailand campaign and a fresh format to kick off the New Year ... at least, Chinese New Year! No doubt we will be tinkering with some design aspects over the next couple of months but we anticipate this format will allow for more layout flexibility with both the editorial and the advertising. Do let me know what you think of it as constructive criticism is always welcome.

'Tis February, the month of Valentines and hearts and flowers and chocolate and shops full of gooey and/or amusing cards, so what better time to start thinking about the upcoming AGM in March? No, sorry, that should read: so what better time to wine and dine your loved one/prospective in Lords, feasting on a 5-course special dreamed up by that ole' romantic, Barry, while gazing into each others' eyes. A rare year in that Valentines conveniently falls at the weekend; reservations for your two seats for Saturday 14th are strongly recommended.



As for the magazine; hot on the heels of the elephant extravaganza of last month Outpost is again packed full of photographs as we round off 1997's events in this issue, including the children's Fun Day, Sleepover and Christmas Party as well as the adults' Christmas Ball and New Year River Cruise, and don't forget the Christmas Cracker, the enhanced Carols by Candlelight on the back lawn. While photos of the children's events were supplied by the Club, my own shutter finger definitely deserved a rest by January!

#### Launch of the Wets

Also included in this month's issue is the first report from the Aquatic section, the combining of swimming, aqua aerobics, water polo and other damp pursuits to form a sports section in their own right. Their launch ('scuse the pun) is heralded with the novel idea of a poolside movie, during which you float about on something on ye pool while generally facing screenwards in this perfect winter weather, so what's a few pruney fingertips between friends?

Despite arriving on the tardy side I was lucky enough to bump into the Australian Ambassador, H.E. Bill Fisher, at the recent New Members Night and persuaded him to write a little introductory prose about himself and his family which is included herein. I'm also delighted to be able to publish the short story with local flavour penned by none other than Margaret Miller, crossword compiler supremo, which has been published elsewhere but some time ago. Is there no end to this lady's talents?

Just before closing I am sorry to have received the news of the passing of Tim Hughes, a long-time member of the Club and especially well-known in Hash House circles for his friendly personality and as publisher of Harrier International. Sympathies go to his family in the UK.

Gargalit

Gaynor de Wit Editor

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the case, flying via Schiphol will leave you to arrive closer and fresher to your final destination.

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'm writing the Manager's report this month as Tom Bain, the General Manager, is on leave in Australia for two weeks, so here goes:

Well, the hectic months of November and December are now past, although it's good to see the trend of outside catering continuing into '98-at the time of writing we've already catered several outside events with more planned for the coming weekend. We would like to thank all the members who supported the Club during the year, be it by attending the 25 Club events held or by having the Club cater for them. Thanks are also due to all the staff for making things happen, not only the service staff (waiters, chefs, etc) but also to those in the background - the gardeners, cleaners, office staff, etc - who help administer the events. We really do rely on teamwork and I feel we performed well in 1997.

However, that's in the past; now onto this year. We have a Valentines Night dinner in Lords on Saturday 14th February (of course). A 5-course meal with cocktail awaits the romantic; space is limited to so please call or fax the Club to book your place.

In other areas, Khun Sarakit, Khun Wallop and their maintenance workforce have been busy tidying things up around the Club after the heavy usage. If you see anything around the Club looking in need of a lick of paint or replacement just let us know as those of us who work here tend not always to notice when things don't look their best.

Also, if you know of anybody new in Thailand or indeed not so new who haven't joined the Club then please do encourage them to do so - let's work together to try and get membership numbers back on course.

Look forward to seeing you around the Club

Barry Osborne Operations Manager

Postscript: Since my return the sad news of the death of Tim Hughes has reached us. I would like to echo the sentiments expressed by Gaynor in her editor's column. He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all who knew him at the Club.

Tom Bain General Manager



Barry Osborne - Operations Manager

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#### Jesada and Vararut Tanking



Jesada is the Managing Director of Super J. International Co., Ltd, and is married to Vararut. They have three children; the oldest, Pam, is 15 years old, June is 10 years old and Jeff, the youngest is 8 years old. All three children are at school here in Bangkok. Both Jesada and Vararut are avid tennis players. Jesada is also keen on golf and badminton and expresses an interest in playing darts. In their free time they both like to read.

#### **Tim Bacon**



The Bacon family are here in Bangkok on their first posting abroad and will remain for another eighteen months. Tim is Project Manager at Esso, whilst

Susan is currently a lady of leisure, having taken a temporary sabbatical from her job as a solicitor. They have two boys, Nathan (12) and Jacob (9) who are both attending Patana School. Tim is partial to old cars and has two MGs in storage in the UK; he says he is "missing them terribly". Susan is a keen reader and enjoys writing in her spare time. Sports-wise both play badminton, Susan likes swimming and Tim likes rugby, he is also an "awful" squash player!

#### Philippe and Isabelle Agret



Philippe and Isabelle originate from France and Bangkok is their third foreign home after London, where their nine year old daughter Alix was born, and then Hanoi in Vietnam. Sophie, their youngest daughter, is just 2 <sup>1</sup>/2 and was born in her native France. The Agret family plan to be resident in Bangkok for a few more years, so we hope to be seeing them often. Philippe is the Bureau Chief Journalist at Agence France Presse and naturally enjoys reading in his spare time as well as listening to music. Isabelle also likes reading

and enjoys cooking and painting. They both enjoy swimming and Philippe plays tennis.

**Romance is in the Air - and in Lords!** 

The way to a man's heart... Eating food is a great aphrodisiac...

The and dine your loved one or even your spouse (just kidding! - G) on Valentine's Day, Saturday 14th, in Lords Restaurant. A deficious menu will ignite the taste buds and perhaps even the passion over five courses, starting on the right note with a free cocktail.

Call the Club or fax 235 1560 for your reservation now, and ensure your brownie points in the romance stakes this Valentines Day!

#### Golf



#### II Golfed Out at Springfield

A big thank you to the organisers of a much enjoyed family golfing weekend which took place in Cha-Am at the beginning of December. Non-playing partners and children enjoyed the beach and facilities of the Springfield Hotel whilst the golfers played for three consecutive days. The course was in great condition with lots of water features in a beautiful hilly setting.



Dugal Forrest presents the DeeMed trophy to Phil Hall, captain of the victorious Members team

Congratulations to Mike Poustie for winning the **Osram** sponsored Ambassador's Cup on the Friday. Saturday saw the Bell Trophy awarded to the Cocktail Lounge team for the fifth year running after they narrowly defeated the British Club by 7 points to 5. The match was followed by a barbecue and fireworks on the beach generously hosted by Ben and Pensari Penputt. Good food and a lot of beer ensured that everyone joined in the ensuing karaoke.



Bernie Adams looking very excited by the thought of all that whiskey

On Sunday the Committee challenged the Members for the DeeMed Trophy. The Committee is in obvious need of some medical appliances as they were comprehensively thrashed with an average Stableford score of 10 points. Nevertheless, everyone went away happy after some good golf, good seafood and fresh air. We'll be back!

#### **Medal Final**



Mike Poustic with the Ambassador's Cup and Prize presented by Mark Verheyen

The Medal Final was held at the Royal Lad Krabang course. Unfortunately a number of people who had won the initial rounds have left Thailand but that did not stop a good turn-out for the competition. Winners of the flights (and their net scores in brackets) were as follows:

- Flight A Bernie Adams (70)
- Flight B Paul Jensen (73)
- Flight C Mark Verheyen (68)

To check that you are in the right handicap flight section next time, the chart below taken from "The Art of Coarse Golf" may help...

#### Club Days 🕳

A number of players decided to walk off the turkey by attending the two Club Days held at Vintage on 28th December and 3rd January. On the first day players had to choose their own handicaps in order to get to a net score of between 60 and 70. The winner was the person closest to the score scaled in an envelope. There was a late start as it did take at least an hour to explain the competition. However, Bryan Dodd did get the hang of it and walked off with the contents of Geoff Lamb's closet.

Gareth Sampson is definitely peaking at the moment. He won the Club Day on the third with a net score of 61. Runners up were Don Robertson and Roger Fitzgerald.

#### Next Outings

The outings planned for February and March are as follows. Please come - everyone is welcome.

Club Championship - Sunday 1st February, 11.00am, Khao Kheow

New Members Day - Wednesday 11th February, Vintage followed by a BBQ at the British Club Golf





Judy Fitzgerald learns that her nearest the pin prize is a round of golf with Roger



Enjoying an interhole drink at Springfield - Don and Laurie Robertson, Roy Fazackerly, John Lee and Mark Verheyen

Friendly Match vs Chequers - Saturday 21st February, 7.30am at Bangpoo

Club Day - Sunday 8th March, Vintage Match vs Lighthouse Club - Saturday 21st March, 7.30am, Bangpoo Match vs Wanderers - Saturday 28th March, Krisada

#### **Karen Carter**

Handicap	<b>Official Definition</b>	Truth
40	A human rat who should be thrown off any course	The backbone of the game. A splendid person who will give you an enjoyable round and who undoubtedly has that generous interpretation of the rules which is the mark of a gentleman.
35	Does not exist	The ideal opponent. Always a tough game. Probably a golf writer.
24	Rabbit	Rather a tiger. Avoid him. Although ten strokes better than you he won't concede any. May be pedantic about little things like not counting air shots.
19	Rabbit	A leopard. This man may have actually won a competition.
12	A mere handicap player	A positive jaguar. But don't worry, he wouldn't want to play with you.
Scratch	A useful golfer	These people do not exist outside television screens.

#### Tennis

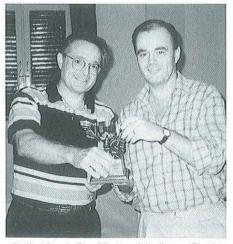
# The Chamber Pot

www.ith everyone warming up for the big stuff - he Club Championships and the first league series of 1998, both of which commenced in early January - the section can be forgiven for a quiet-ish December on the tournament front.



Paul, James, Greg and David raising a glass or four to an unexpected (?) win by the Brits

Mind you, there still appears to be a permanent shortage of court booking space and I'm sure this month will be worse than last with latter championship round deadlines fast approaching in at least 20 categories. There was a match played on Sunday 11th January against the RBSC but more on that next month when hopefully we may have prised some photos out of the triumphant opposition, ahem. In the meantime, here's a match that did take place during December which, while not being an official



Dr Paul Strunk, Exec Director of the German Chamber, hands over the cup to James

British Club fixture, might just as well have been given the number of Club members involved...

#### **British vs German Chambers**

Mid-December saw the annual clash of the titans - the friendly match between the British and German Chambers of Commerce held at the British Club. Only two players on the Brits team played last year (when we got walloped); this time even the Exec Director was different following Phyl Xumsai's departure down under at the beginning of '97. The new ED, Greg Watkins, is better known to Club members in satiny



Spectators enjoyed several close matches

shorts legging it around a footie pitch but on occasion can be dragged forcibly into whites and onto a tennis court with bat, and so he was this fine, early morning. Indeed, so unimpressed was his counterpart, Dr Paul Strunk, with Greg's opening few air shots that he persuaded him to play twice but, to his credit, Greg managed to pull a comfortable 6-3 victory from that first match playing with James.

Solid performances were put in by James and Ek especially for winning all their matches and a particularly outstanding show was given by Terry for managing to lose all four of his, with two whitewashes into the bargain! Credible performances were given by all members of our team, which comprised:

Ben, David "Cap'n" Blowers, Dick Blackmore, Ek, Gaynor de Wit, Greg "the Boss" Watkins, James Young, Leif, Marc Hagelauer, and Nisa, Terry and Wan Adams. This performance was particularly good we won 14-7, the first time the cup has come our way in recent memory and certainly the first time we'd seen Dr Paul eat humble pie, given the ease of their recent victories against us!... as he put it in his speech, given after a delicious buffet in the Surawong Room, he "wasn't expecting to be in this position of handing over the trophy today" but, like true Germans, his team "would see it as a challenge to improve for next ycar and devise new strategies"!

Many thanks to Paul for assembling his Chamber shower and to Greg and David Blowers for assembling our crack squad; long may the cup remain in our grasp!

#### Tennis







#### A Joke 🖿

Running around the section at the moment: Q. How many people does it take to change a lightbulb on a tennis court?

A. Must be 14 or more, as 3 managers and10 Committee members can't manage it...

#### Finals Day

Don't forget Sunday 8th March when you have to go German and grab your seat early

for the Club Championship Finals which will last all day. Semi-finalists are warned that their matches must be played at least by end-of-play Saturday 7th...



Greg attempting to explain the Brit's victory to the lunch bunch



Paul trying even harder to explain the German's loss

#### Lotsaluv Me

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#### **Reflections on Thailand II**

he Rotunda Gallery of the Neilson Hays Library is pleased to present an exhibition of water colours by **Vivienne Sudding**, a resident of Thailand for the past five years who focuses her creative attention on this country's culture and historic monuments.

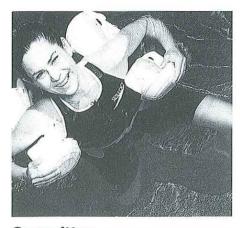
Saturday 28th February — Thursday 26th March

For further information please contact the Neilson Hays Library on 233 1731 or Mrs Margaret Richards, Curator, on 860 3062.

#### Aquatics

# **Alive and Splashing!**

t's official - the Aquatic Section at the British Club is alive and splashing. I'd like to welcome and thank the new committee for their support:



#### Committee

Liz Beal
Valerie Salt
Janet Sparks
Rosemary Imlah
Marilyn Moffatt
Graham Beal
TBA
TBA

#### Poolside Movie

To start the year there will be a big screen poolside movie on Friday 20th February at 7pm. Bring your own "floatation" and relax in the pool and watch a movie — what better way to wind down at the end of the week? Hope to see many families there. The Aquatic Section would like you to support the event by donating Bt 200 per family or Bt 100 per individual. This will entitle you to one year's membership of the Aquatic Section and be 'first' to receive news of future events and activities.

#### Upcoming Events

• Tuesday 17th February, 6-7pm — Masters swimming training commences (sign up at the Fitness Centre)

• Friday 20th February, 7pm - Family

poolside movie

- Sunday 8th March, 10.30am-1pm Swimming gala (sign up at the Fitness Centre)
- Saturday mornings Swimming coaching for children continues; completed application forms must be returned to the Fitness Centre.

If you are interested in assisting with aquatic activities in *any* capacity please inform any of the committee or myself at the Club. It's time to take the plunge.

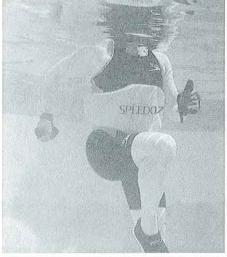
#### Lisa Fitzpatrick

#### Get Wet, Get Fit, Get Hooked!

No aches and pains. No tricky dance steps. If you want to have fun while you tone your whole body, our water workout's for you. Low- to no-impact moves make aquatic fitness perfect for all ages, body types and fitness levels — whether you swim or not. It may look like leisurely splashing but jump in and you'll get a total body workout - the same calorie-burning, muscle-toning benefits of a land routine but with much less risk of injury.

"A 150-pound woman standing in water up to her chest weighs about 38 pounds," says Julie Twnyham, president of Body Check Inc and a Speedo Aquatic fitness trainer, as standing like this, 75% of your body weight is supported by water. However, your newfound buoyancy won't make your workout easier - movements are slower and about 12 times more intense than those at the same speed on land. "Water allows each person to work at her own pace with less impact and danger of injury than land acrobics," says Dr Doug Clement, co-director of Vancouver's Allan McGavin Sports Medicine Centre. Water workouts involve all muscle groups, using similar movements to walking, jogging, cycling and cross-country skiing combined with calisthenics such as kicks, knee-lifts, jumps and lunges. A full workout can improve your flexibility, agility, balance and cardiovascular and muscular strength.

No wonder elite athletes, such as hockey star Eric Lindros, skater Nancy Kerrigan and runner Lynn Williams have jumped into water to bounce back from injuries and cross-train with their land routines.



Buoyancy belt - available for hire for Bt 80 from the Fitness Centre

#### Squash



The Tony Austin Cup, an annual squash competition for 45 years and over squash players, was held during November 1997. This was the strongest field since the competition's inception in 1992.

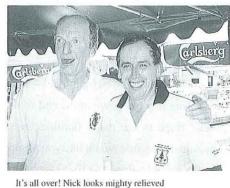
Dave Bryant and Peter Corney, two previous winners, were joined by two youngsters, Nick White and Colin Hastings, with the usual players from the Polo Club and a few more BC players who were always in with a chance.

Dave Bryant played Nick White in the semi-finals and had an unexpected 3-0 loss, though in hindsight Nick should have been favourite as since this competition he has consistently beaten the top players in the Club. Peter Corney won his semi-final 3-1 and the stage was set for an interesting Final. Nick started off slowly as always but came from behind to win the first game and from then on always had the edge over Peter. Nick won a hard fought second game and Peter won the third with Nick taking the fourth to win 3-1 and become the Tony Austin Cup winner for 1997. The Final was hard fought but Nick was fitter and more consistent on the day.

#### Peter Corney



David Turner hands the Tony Austin Cup to veterans champ Nick White





David handing Peter the runner-up plate

#### From the SRC

y the time you receive this issue I will be coming to the end of my leave in Perth and no doubt I'll be looking forward to getting back into the "normal" routine here at the British Club. I also look forward to seeing many of you back on the tennis court and in the swimming pool.



Lisa Fitzpatrick - Sport & Recreation Coordinator

January saw the start of the new courses for tennis and swimming. The Friday evening tennis coaching is being conducted by Tim Farthing from Sportathlon. He is also available for private coaching upon request.

Saturday morning swimming continues to discover and produce budding young swimmers. Rosemary Imlah and myself take these classes between 9am and 1pm. For those of you in the Club at this time, don't forget aqua aerobics at the NEW time of 10.30am with Julia.

The "Aquatic Section" was officially formed on Saturday 10th January. This section will be involved in many aquatic activities including aqua aerobics, swimming classes and training programmes as well as introducing water polo for the first time. The first swimming gala of the year will be held on Sunday 8th March from 10.30am to 1pm. Please sign up outside the Fitness Centre. other aquatic events please see the Aquatic Section in this issue.

In January we also had our first "get-together" for the ladies touch rugby. We've had a good response and hope to have finalised training days by publication date (see Management News for details). If you know of anyone interested please encourage them to come along. No experience is necessary.

A football and movie night for kids will be held on Tuesday 10th February. 5-a-side football will be organised on the back lawn from 5-6.30pm followed by a movie in the Wordsworth Room at 7pm; the cost will be Bt 50 per participant.

Another junior disco will be held this month on Friday 27th from 7-10pm. The theme is "Red & Black" dress. Sign up at Reception.

Please check the Management News for additional events and activities. See you all upon my return.

Lisa Fitzpatrick Sport & Recreation Coordinator

The following short article may inspire some of you to get serious about those New Year Resolutions — do it for the family!

#### Parents - A Major Influence on Children's Activity

Because children learn best by example, you'd expect active parents to have active children. It's tough to say how strong the influence can be, because conclusions on the subject rely mostly on self-reported data, which is not objective. Lynn Moore, M.P.H., and colleagues at the Boston University School of Medicine overcame this snag by using a movement sensitive instrument which children and parents wore for several days.

They found children of active mothers twice as likely to be active than children of inactive mothers. Fathers had an even greater influence — children of active fathers were 3.5 times more likely to be active than youngsters of inactive fathers. Families in which both parents were active had the most active children.

So now there's an added reason to feel good about working out regularly: it's not only good for your own health but also has a strong influence on your kids' behaviour.

Journal of Pediatrics Vol. 118 No. 2 pp 215-219) Fitnews Vol. 9 No 9, September 1991

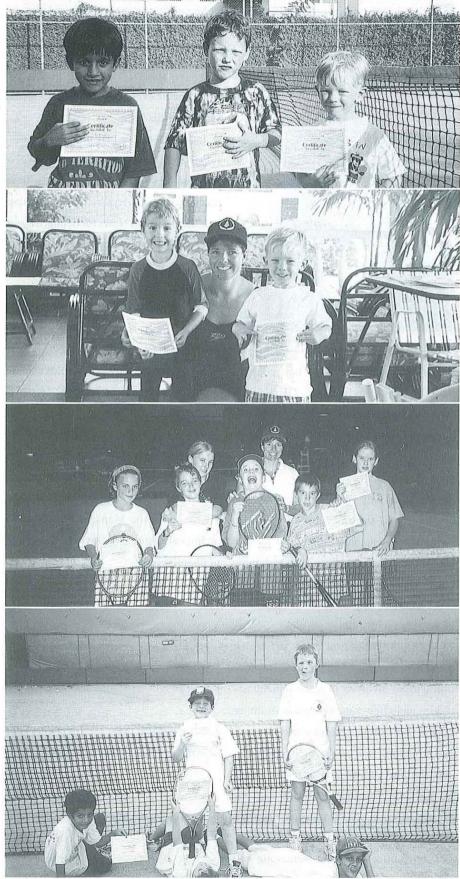
For more information on swimming and

#### Coaching News

### **October-December Coachees**

Here are the photos of many of those who completed the last batch of coaching courses in '97, which finished at the end of last year. Needless to say, many are continuing onto more advanced courses and several new people have joined in; if you wish to join please fill in an application form available in the Fitness Centre.







#### **Farewells**

#### More farewells to bid the following members from the last couple of months:

Laura Allen, Rodney and Moeurn Allen, Boonsong and Duangrudee Anongkanatrakul, Keith Ansell, Alexander and Shirley Berdon, Eon and Erika Black, Paul and Shui Ping Chu, Kevin and Sun-Hee Connolly, George and Jenny Crawford, Ronald and Margaret Glen, Phlip and Niki Goodstein, David and Sylvie Hurn, Oliver and Anne Janin, Kasper Jakobsen, Benedict Knowles, Greg and Lauren Lambert, Nigel and Jane Lightbody, Alexander and Rosaleen Lowther, Douglas and Val Mather, Wayne Mitchell, Scan Mulraine, Jill Newson, Michael and Wacharee O'Sullivan, Michael and Sara Pearce, Ian and Janet Price, Nigel and Susie Ratcliffe, Robert and Lindsey Rowe, David and Joan Seldon, Nigel Smith, Philip and Valda Telfer, Martin Thaysen, Paul and Tina Tyrer, Neville Walsingham and, last but not least, Antonio and Winnie Wong.

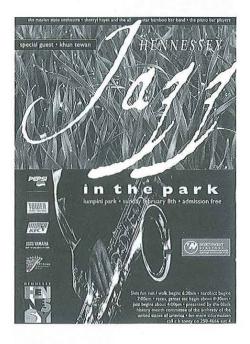
#### **Jazz in the Park and So Much More!**

Sunday 8th February promises to be a great day of entertainment, fun and music in Lumpini Park as part of the annual Black History Month celebrations being organised by the American Embassy.

The *Family Day* kicks off at 6.30am with a run/walk and aerobics at 7am, with games continuing throughout the day and thrills and spills with waiters races at 1.15pm. The *Jazz Concert* starts at 4pm with a wide variety of performers, from Cherryl Hayes and the Bamboo Bar All-Stars to the Russian State Orchestra, with a special appearance by Thailand's very own musical genius Khun Tewan.

Admission is **FREE** thanks to the sponsors: Hennessey, Pepsi, KFC, Tower Records, Yamaha, Northwest Airlines and Fortissimo Italian Restaurant.

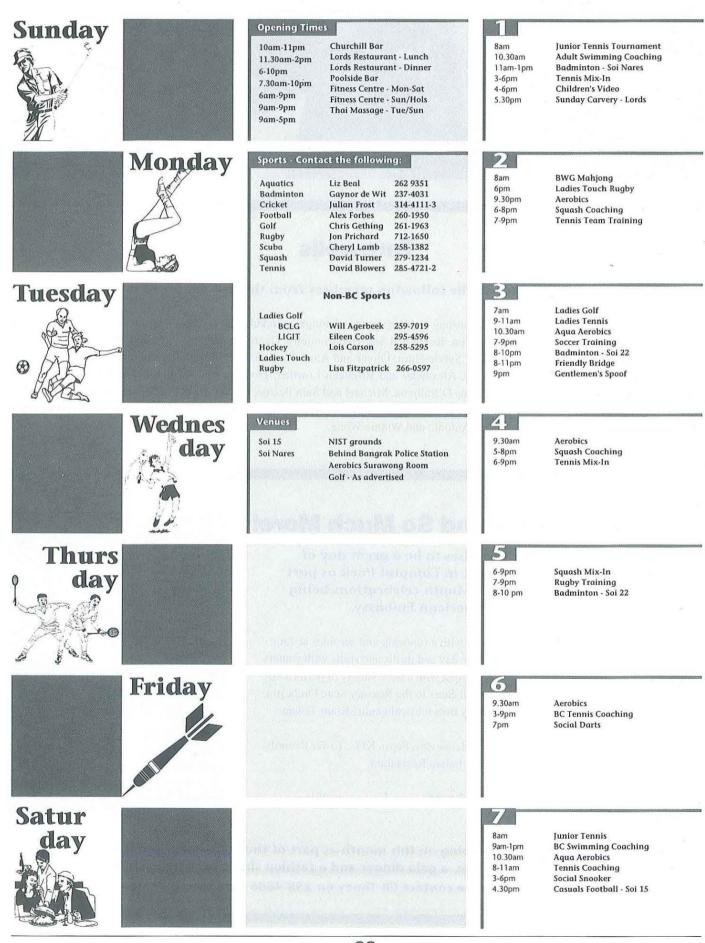
Make a note of the date — **Sunday 8th February** — and get yourself to **Lumpini Park** for a great day!



There are several other events going on this month as part of these annual celebrations including a free jazz symposium, a gala dinner and a fashion show; for more details please contact CB Toney on 258 4666 ext. 4.

#### Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - February



#### Don't Forget !!

- + Let eyes meet across the table over candlelight at the St. Valentine's Dinner in Lords on Saturday 14th
- 5-a-side footie followed by a movie for the kids on Tuesday 10th
- Red and Black is the theme for the Junior disco in the Surawong Room on Friday 27th
- Get warmed up for the first Swimming Gala of 1998 to be held on Sunday 8th March

0.30am 1am-1pm -6pm -6pm .30pm	Adult Swimming Coaching Badminton - Soi Nares Tennis Mix - In Children's Video Sunday Carvery - Lords	10.30am 11am-1pm 3-6pm 4-6pm 5.30pm	Adult Swimming Coaching Badminton - Soi Nares Tennis Mix - In Children's Video Sunday Carvery - Lords	10.30am 11am-1pm 3-6pm 4-6pm 5.30pm	Adult Swimming Coaching Badminton - Soi Nares Tennis Mix - In Children's Video Sunday Carvery - Lords
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am om 30am 8pm 9pm	BWG Mahjong Ladies Touch Rugby Aerobics Squash Coaching Tennis Team Training	8am 6pm 9.30am 6-8pm 7-9pm	BWG Mahjong Ladies Touch Rugby Aerobics Squash Coaching Tennis Team Training	8am 6pm 9.30am 6-8pm 7-9pm	BWG Mahjong Ladies Touch Rugby Aerobics Squash Coaching Tennis Team Training
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am 11am 0.30am 9pm 10pm 11pm 5m	Ladies Golf Ladies Tennis Aqua Aerobics Soccer Training Badminton - Soi 22 Friendly Bridge Gentlemen's Spoof	7am 9-11am 10.30am 6pm 7-9pm 8-10pm 8-11pm 9pm	Ladies Golf Ladies Tennis Aqua Aerobics Masters Swim Training Soccer Training Badminton - Soi 22 Friendly Bridge Gentlemen's Spoof	7am 9-11am 10.30am 6pm 7-9pm 8-10pm 8-11pm 9pm	Ladies Golf Ladies Tennis Aqua Aerobics Masters Swim Training Soccer Training Badminton - Soi 22 Friendly Bridge Gentlemen's Spoof
Kids	Football & Movie Night				
30am 8pm 9pm 9pm	Aerobics Squash Coaching Tennis Mix-In Squash Teams competition	9.30am 5-8pm 6-9pm 6-9pm	Aerobics Squash Coaching Tennis Mix-In Squash Teams competition	<b>225</b> 9.30am 5-8pm 6-9pm 6-9pm	Aerobics Squash Coaching Tennis Mix-In Squash Teams competition
2		- 19 r		   26 Γ	
9pm 9pm 10 pm	Squash Mix-In Rugby Training Badminton - Soi 22	6-9pm 7-9pm 8-10 pm	Squash Mix-In Rugby Training Badminton - Soi 22	6-9pm 7-9pm 8-10 pm	Squash Mix-In Rugby Training Badminton - Soi 22
30am	Aerobics	<b>20</b> 9.30am	Aerobics	9.30am	Aerobics
9pm om	BC Tennis Coaching Social Darts	3-9pm 7pm	BC Tennis Coaching Social Darts	3-9pm 7pm	BC Tennis Coaching Social Darts
			Pool Movie	Junio	r Disco - Surawong Room
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m m-1pm .30am 6pm	Junior Tennis BC Swimming Coaching Aqua Aerobics Social Snooker Casuals Football - Soi 15	8am 9am-1pm 10.30am 3-6pm 4.30pm	Junior Tennis BC Swimming Coaching Aqua Aerobics Social Snooker Casuals Football - Soi 15	8am 9am-1pm 10.30am 3-6pm 4.30pm	Junior Tennis BC Swimming Coaching Aqua Aerobics Social Snooker Casuals Football - Soi 15
30pm					

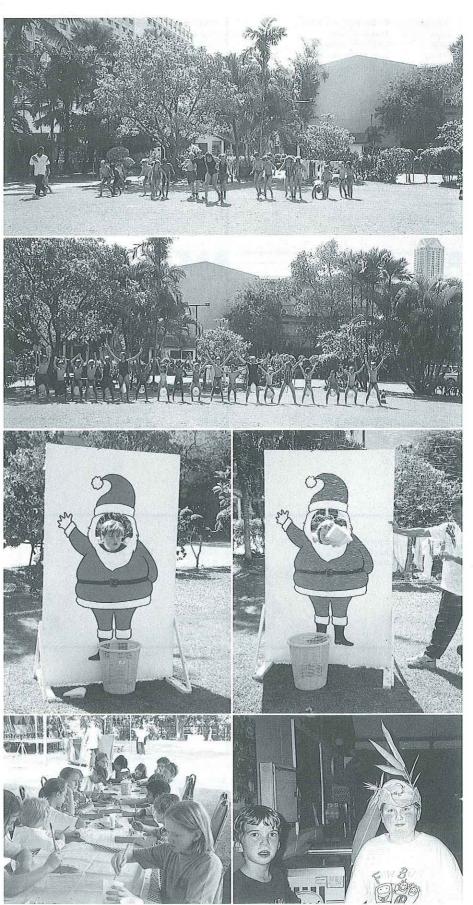
### **Holiday Havoc**

wenty-two enthusiastic children aged between 6 and 13 participated in two days of fun and games at the BC on the15th and 16th December. The overnight holiday "camp" kept everyone entertained with a variety of sporting activities that included football, swimming, athletic races and novelty games. Participants were also able to display their talents in cookie decorating, card making, orienteering, painting and drama. Other activities included a treasure hunt, twilight games and a big screen movie. All children were very well behaved. Many new friendships were established and encouraged over the two days. Teamwork, peer support and positive encouragement were the underlying aims of this event. We "all" survived and had a lot of laughs in the process. Thank you to all involved, particularly Liz Beale who braved a night on the floor of the Surawong Room with us - greatly appreciated!

These photos of this (dare I say?) "annual" event show everyone enjoying themselves.

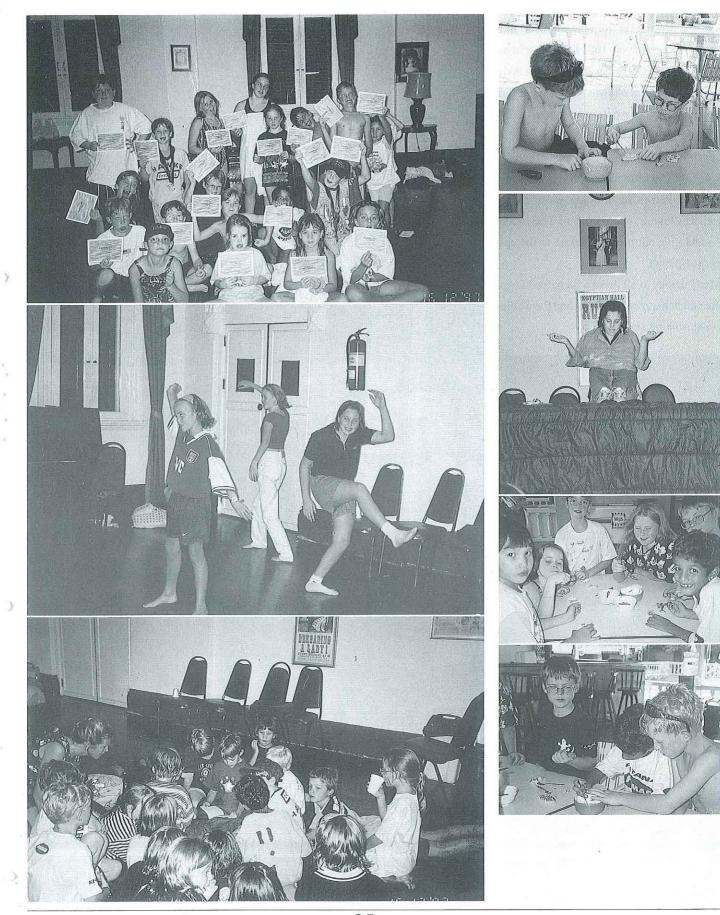
#### Lisa Fitzpatrick





### Children's Fun Day / Sleepover

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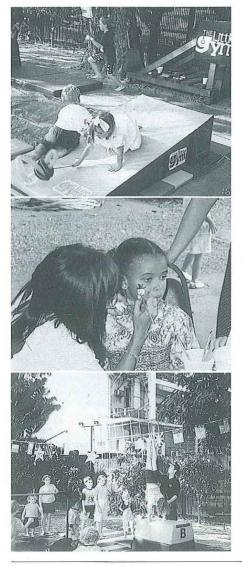


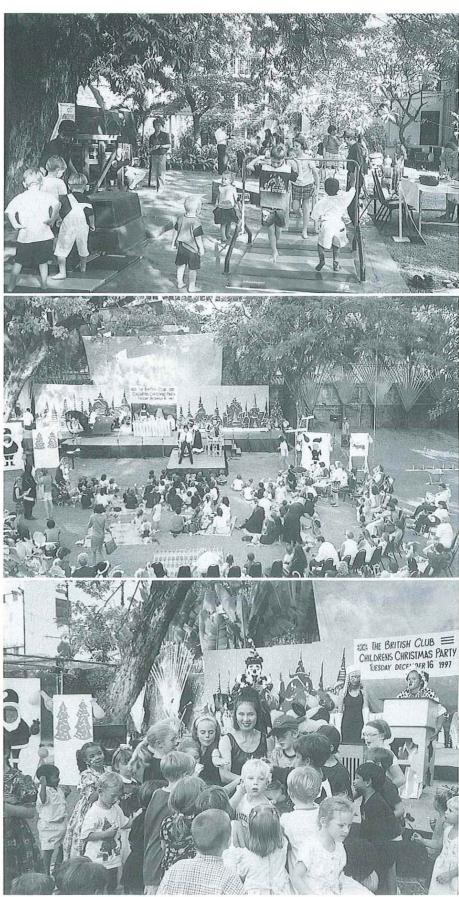
#### Children's Xmas Party

# Santa By Tuk Tuk!

ollowing on from the Fun Day and Sleepover on 16th December was the Children's Christmas Party held on both the front and back lawns. Games and the ever-popular face painting were high on the agenda and the children's gymnastics coaching and equipment were kindly provided by **The Little Gym**. The participants were thrilled to see a rather warm Santa arrive by tuktuk — the authentic Thai touch — and give out presents galore to the eager recipients.

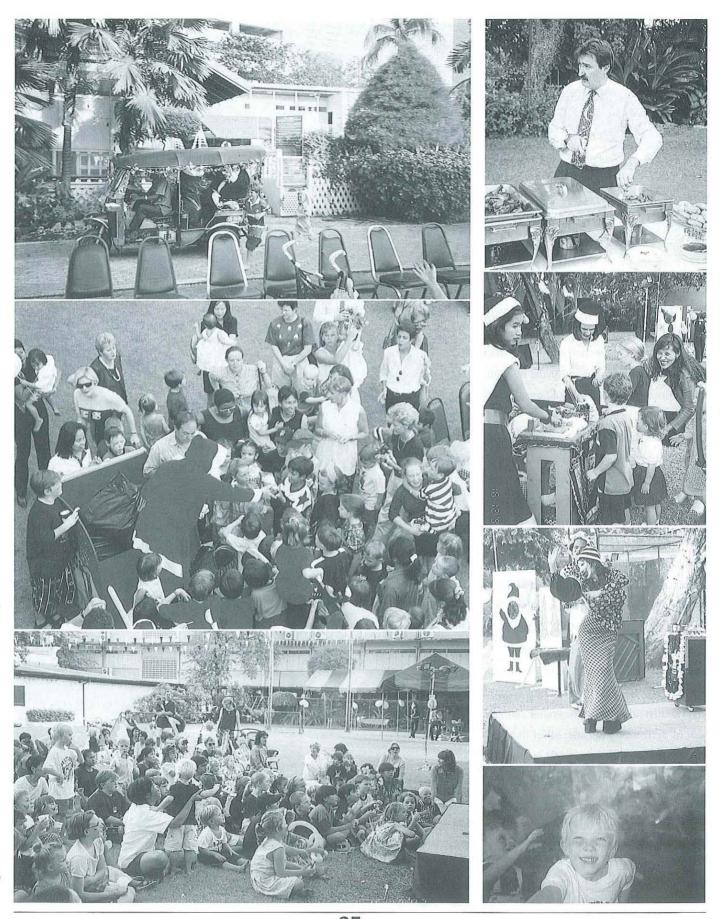
Many thanks to all those who helped keep the mayhem prospects down and the whole event running smoothly!





#### Children's Xmas Party

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FEBRUARY 1998 27 BR

BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

#### Carols by Candlelight

## **A Christmas Cracker**

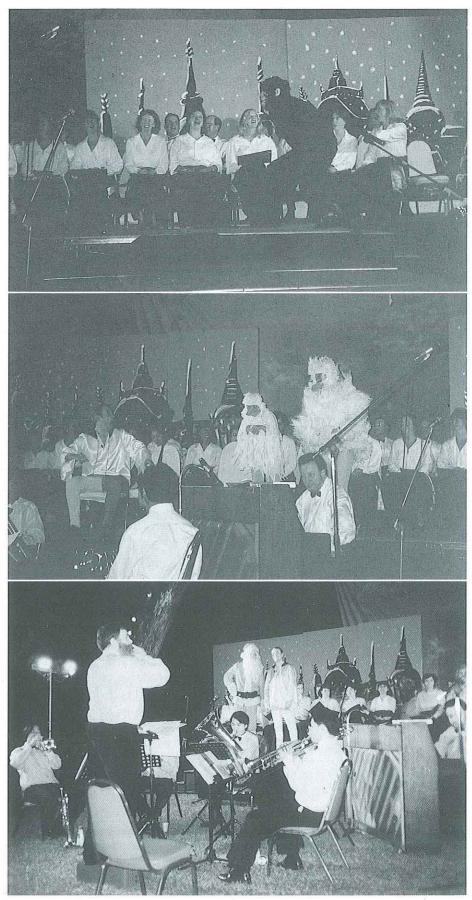
This year the Club was fortunate to have our traditional 'Carols by Candlelight' transformed into a 'Christmas



Cracker' by the Bangkok Community Theatre. The performance was held over two nights with a total of 646 guests watching the show and being treated to mulled wine and shortbread, not to mention the reputed BC's mince pies (the Club sold over 3,000 mince pies this year!).

Due to the tight budget no professional sound equipment or lighting could be hired so we made do with the BC's own and were very grateful to **Bangkok Patana School** in borrowing their PA system. We were also lucky to have a brass band sponsored by **Hongkong Bank**. Khun Sarakit, Prasert and all the BC lads are to be thanked for building the set for the event and then dismantling it ready for the Club Ball which was held that approaching weekend.

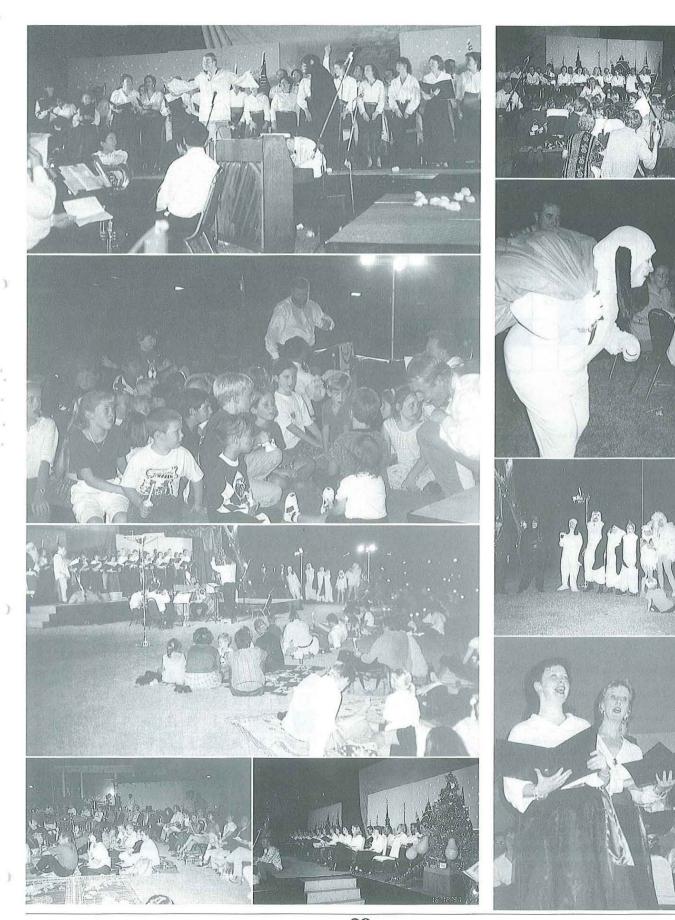
Last but not least, many thanks are due to the BCT players, who battled along despite several difficulties with the sound and the heat of performing outside; all of the performers and behind-scenes folk had given up considerable time to ensure that the show ran smoothly and kept the audience interested right to the end, making a Christmas in Bangkok even more festive.



#### **Barry Osborne**

#### Carols by Candlelight

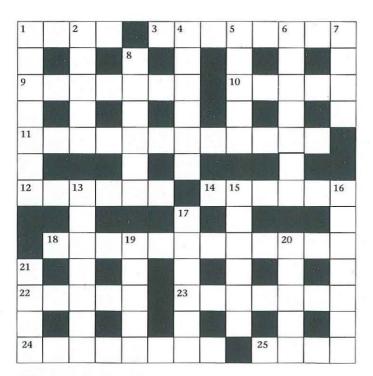
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FEBRUARY 1998 29 BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

#### Crossword

## Winter-End Crossword



#### Clues

#### Across

- 1 "A rose-red city, half as old as \_\_\_\_\_." (J.W. Burgon)
- 3 Paces around with the fellows astronauts
- 9 May be a rear one at sea!
- 10 The bobby's beat or residence?
- 11 Gives you another go (6, 6)
- 12 A muse is about treat badly
- 14 Maybe re-star? Stop!
- **16** Little Malcolm embraces Rita with great joy for this! (7, 5)
- 22 They go with guys
- 23 This chemical sounds like the pay you get for workafter dark
- 24 Is this how they wooed in the forest in "As You Like It"?
- 25 They sound like refreshments for golfers

#### Down

- 1 A cross member in the British Club? Maybe!
- 2 Ape
- 4 Friend and expert make a home for H.M.
- 5 Indicates a bit of a pause
- 6 Can male make a fetter?
- 7 A little man average!
- 8 Bands about right for the trademarks
- 13 The cows were put in the shed and the engine stopped working!
- 15 You get it back
- 16 They hang on and decorate
- 17 Sexy knowledge
- 19 Writer who created the 22 Across House
- 21 "Mr K. Had only one \_\_\_\_\_ and that was wrong." (Disraeli)

#### Last month's solution



1.)

### **H.E. William Fisher**

The new Australian Ambassador had been in Thailand less than one week when I caught up with him at the Club's New Members Night in January so I was especially pleased when he managed to write a few words to introduce himself and his family in time for this issue:

It is a great pleasure for any Australian to come to Bangkok, and a particular pleasure for me to be coming here as Ambassador since Bangkok is surely one of the most soughtafter postings in the Australian foreign service.

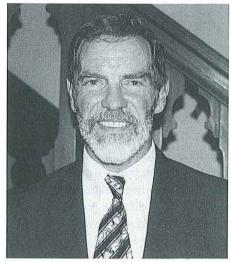
It is a special privilege to become an honorary member of the British Club, a green oasis in the concrete jungle which I remember with great fondness from many years ago when I was posted at the Australian Embassy in Vientiane and used to make frequent rest and recreation excursions to the lights of the big city.

Apart from Laos, most of my career has been spent in the Pacific, the United Nations, the United States and the Middle East. I have been Head of Post in Tel Aviv, Tehran, Honolulu, Port Vila and Noumea in previous incarnations, interspersed of course with periods at head office in Canberra.

I hope to be a regular visitor to the British Club. I am a keen and regular runner and swimmer but I'm afraid not much good at the Australian national sports of tennis, golf or even cricket! On the tennis front at least, I can delegate duties to my wife Kerry, who will arrive here in early February after the Australian school year has begun.

My daughter Adelaide will be staying in Australia at boarding school but of course will be visiting here during the school holidays. She too no doubt will be a keen visitor to the Club, taking time off from her other immediate interests in Bangkok's great variety of shopping. Clearly, I have an interest in encouraging her to stay as long as possible at the Club.

I look forward to meeting other members of the British Club and to a very enjoyable time with you in Bangkok.



H.E. William Fisher - Australian Ambassador

William Fisher

#### Short Story

# **The Second Chance**

#### short story by Margaret Miller

Chan Ah Ling had always considered himself a fortunate man. A goldsmith by trade, he owned a tall shophouse in the heart of Bangkok's Chinatown and the sign which hung over the door indicated that some of the pretty gold trinkets and ornaments, wrought by himself and displayed so temptingly in the window, would find their way back to him when the buyers fell on hard times.

So business was good and Ah Ling and his family lived comfortably in the three upper stories of the building. His wife was an excellent housekeeper and a noted cook and had raised five fine children for him. The youngest was still in high school but the two older boys were working and both girls had made suitable marriages which had already given him three grandchildren.

Ah Ling's only grumbles were about his wife's nephew Damrong. This young man was her sister's son and he worked in the barber's salong of one of Bangkok's big luxury hotels. The visiting businessmen and the tourists tipped lavishly and Damrong always had money in his pocket. He was a handsome youth who liked to dress in the latest fashions, patronise the cafes and disco-joints around town, and he had a Honda motorcycle which he rode with great panache. Ah Ling thought that his wife doted too fondly on her pleasureloving nephew and would complain about Damrong's frequent visits, but otherwise he was, at the age of 56, well content with life. Until the day he went to the Butterfly Coffeeshop.

The weather was very hot and the din of the traffic and the dust and clamour of the streets seemed worse than usual. Ah Ling was just coming out of the bank when he ran into Boon Sang, an old friend and good customer whom he had not seen for some time. "Come and have a cool drink," invited Boon Sang. "I've got some big news to tell you."

He led the way into the Butterfly Coffeeshop. Ah Ling had often noticed the huge blue and yellow butterfly which was the sign over the door but he had never been inside. It was a bright place, with blue plastic-topped tables and yellow cups and plates, and there were pot plants and flowers in the window. They sat down and or-

dered. Many tables were occupied and Ah Ling thought afterwards that he would never have noticed their waitress at all had it not been for the mishap with his iced coffee. Boon Sang was full of his news: he had taken a mia noi - a number two wife! "I tell you man," he said, beaming at Ah Ling, "I am 50 years old and feel 25 again! You just can't imagine how good it is to have a young thing around... life is a poem, I tell you - she is like a flower, a tender flower ... " In his enthusiasm to describe his new wife's charms, he opened wide his arms and swept Ah Ling's glass off the table. At once their waitress was beside them, busy with a cloth, mopping up the spilt coffee and dabbing at the brown spots on Ah Ling's shirt, murmuring and cooing her sympathy for his misfortune. She was a shapely girl, her dark blue sarong hugging her trim waist and rounded hips and her face was smooth and brown, with curving lips and dark eyes which peeped at Ah Ling through thick lashes. He stammered his thanks and she hovered round them until they settled the bill and went out into the street.

All evening the shapely figure and bright eyes of the waitress remained in Ah Ling's mind, and next morning he went into the Butterfly Coffceshop again. It was early and few customers were in evidence, but his heart fluttered when the same girl came for his order and brought his iced coffee. He managed to keep her attention by thanking her for her help the previous day, then by asking for more sugar, then ordering a cake and finally, in desperation, a second glass of iced coffee. Over the next few days Ah Ling consumed vast quantities of iced coffee and cake at the Butterfly Coffeeshop and even took his lunchbreak there. The food was of inferior quality - the chili pork and fried rice made by his wife at home was much tastier, but Ah Ling was

indifferent towards what he ate. He talked to the waitress and learned that her name was Malee. She was 19 years old and had come to Bangkok from upcountry to look for work. She lived with her aunt who had found her the job as a waitress. The wages were small but she got her food free and sometimes people left tips for her.

Ah Ling thought about her more and more and suddenly ond day, about three weeks after his first visit to the Butterfly Coffeeshop, he was struck by a tremendous idea: he would take Malee for his *mia noi*. He remembered what Boon Sang had told him about the pleasures of a young No. 2 wife and he felt faint with delight at the thought that he too would feel 25 again! He too would have a tender flower and for him too life would be a poem.

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That evening he made his first move by taking Malee a pair of tiny gold earrings, of his own workmanship, and presenting them to her as a good luck gift. She hesitated and looked up at him through her long lashes, but finally, with a pout and a giggle, she accepted his offering and accepted too his invitation to see the most popular movie currently showing in town.

When Ah Ling got home that night his wife was watching a Chinese soap opera on the TV. He looked at her critically. Certainly she had been pretty when he married her but she wasn't really worth a second glance now... not fat, true, but her figure did not go in and out in the enticing way that Malee's did. Her face had lines on it and she did not even use lipstick! Ah Ling felt a sudden surge of resentment. Why should he not be young again? She could never be — she was a woman and it was quite different, but he was a *man* and could recapture his lost youth so easily! His mind was made up.

"Wife," he said, "I have made the decision to take a *mia noi*. You will always be in the place of the number one and honoured as such, but it befits me to have a younger woman now."

In his heart Ah Ling did not feel nearly so confident as his words suggested, and he waited in trepidation for an outburst of anger and protest. Much to his surprise, his wife merely answered quietly, "As you will husband. But No. 2 will have to undertake all the wifely duties which No. 1 previously performed — *all* of them. Retirement must be honourable in every way."

Ah Ling was so thankful that the tempest had not broken over his head that he went up to bed immediately and only vaguely noticed next morning that his breakfast rice-porridge was cold and lumpy, and his clean clothes for the day were not laid out on the bed as usual. As he went downstairs to the shop he saw his wife in the sitting room, talking earnestly in low tones to her nephew Damron, who was looking very smart in tight jeans and a green leather jacket, his hair swept to one side in the latest casual fashion for men. Ah Ling barely acknowledged him as he hurried down to work. Chinese New Year was approaching and gifts of gold were traditional at this season so he was busy, very busy, but it was the most profitable time of the year for him.

He did not have time to go to the Butterfly Coffeeshop for several days and when he did, Malee greeted him casually and carelessly put aside the small box of sweets he had taken for her, flouncing away with a swing of her hips to take orders from other tables. Sipping his iced coffee, Ah Ling watched her. How pretty she looked this evening in her dark blue sarong with a silver stripe gleaming around the hem, her smile and eyes bright and the glint of gold in her small ears ... Ah Ling looked again. Instead of the tiny studs he had given her she was wearing gold drop-earrings, intricately wrought in the form of flying birds, which swung and glittered as she moved. As she came closer, Ah Ling thought how like they were to a pair he had made for his wife on the occasion of their 25th marriage anniversary. He longed to get Malee to himself but she was busy and when he called to her she pouted and hovered around other customers.

wretched life. At home his clothes were washed and ironed but they were roughly done and his trousers were no longer crisply starched with a knife-edge crease. His shirts had grubby cuffs and loose buttons and he certainly could not see his face in the polish of his black shoes! When he got into bed at night the sheets were not cool and smooth but crumpled and loosely pulled up over the lumpy mattress. And the food! No more delicious savoury dishes, just watery soup, soggy rice and greasy chicken. He was miserable, especially as things were not going well at the Butterfly Coffeeshop either. Malee was temperamental and no longer rushed to take his order as soon as he came in. He thought that the customers must be tipping well these days as she was carrying an expensive snakeskin handbag and wearing dainty matching high-heeled sandals - very like the ones he had had made for his wife some time ago, he thought — and even her new Thai silk blouse was in the deep rose shade which was his wife's favourite colour and which she had worn for their younger daughter's wedding. And the perfume Malee was wearing --- surely that flower fragrance was familiar to him?

He could stand it no longer. As she passed his table he caught her hand and blurted out what was in his heart — would she be his *mia noi*? She should live where she chose and he would come every day — she had only to say what she wanted! Malec looked at him for a moment, eyeing him up and down with an odd little smile and then said she must think about it.She would tell him on Saturday.

The next four days seemed like a year to Ah Ling but at last Saturday came and he went round to the Butterfly Coffeeshop, slightly ashamed of his badly-laundered suit. He sat at his usual table and a strange girl with plump cheeks and round eyes came to take his order.

"Where is Malee?" asked Ah Ling anxiously. "Is she serving at other tables now?" "Oh, Malee has left," said the girl. "She has had great good fortune, that one! A young man has fallen in love with her and taken her away to Chiang Mai! He is going to work in the barber's shop at the Crescent Hotel there. She had an old man here who wanted to make her his No. 2 wife but she is too smart. Now she is No. 1 with a handsome young man — well off, too. You should have seen the presents he gave her! Gold dangling earrings and snakeskin shoes and a very expensive Thai silk blouse! And real scent from France! They are going to Chiang Mai on his motorbike — a supercharged Honda! I ask you... do some people have all the luck?"

Ah Ling walked out of the Butterfly Coffeeshop for the last time, forgetting to order. Out in the street he just walked and walked. Old man! Old man indeed! Hot and weary he at last went home and dragged his feet up the stairs from the shop. Yes, he *was* an old man — he felt 70, never mind 56! Suddenly he sniffed. Surely that delicious aroma was roasting duck? He had forgotten how good the smell was!

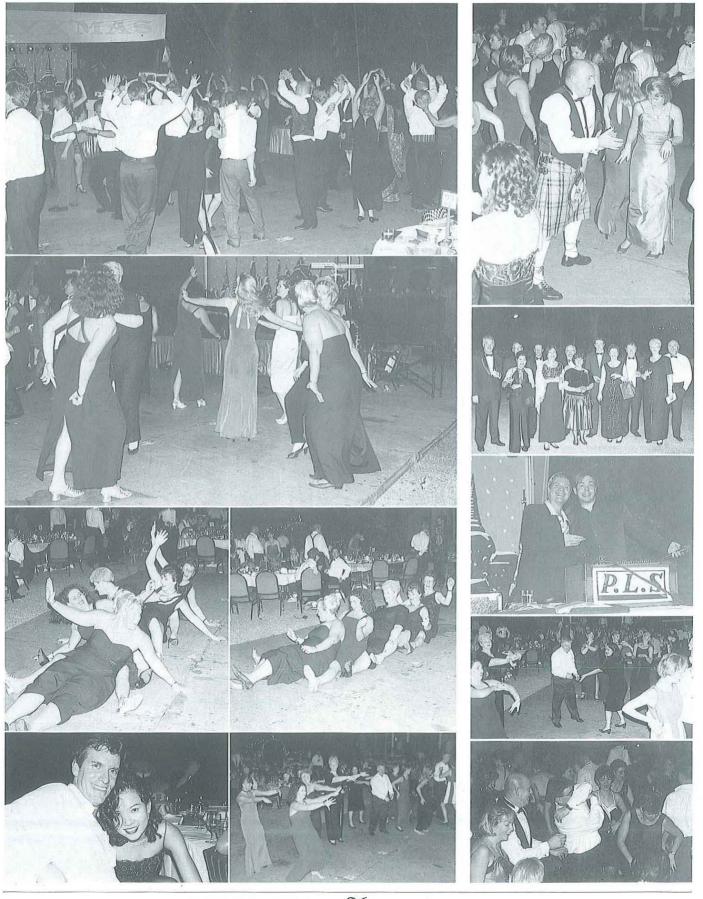
In the bedroom a clean shirt and freshlystarched trousers were laid out and there was a cold beer on the night-table. Thoughtfully Ah Ling showered and changed and went downstairs to the sittingroom. The table was laid for dinner and the smell of roasting duck was more enticing than ever. His wife was sitting in the window. "We won't be seeing so much of Damrong now, husband," she said, "The hotel has transferred him to Chiang Mai to take charge of their salon there. It is promotion for him and will mean more money but I will miss him. He is a good boy. Nobody knows what he has done for me!"

Ah Ling looked at her... pleasant and comfortable, neat and tidy in her marooncoloured sarong and white blouse, the broad gold wedding band her only ornament. "Wife," he said suddenly, "why do you not wear the golden bird drop-earrings and the rose silk blous and the snakeskin shoes I bought you?"

His wife smiled. "This is my style, husband," she said gently, "Come and eat now... the roast duck is ready for you."

During the next few days Ah Ling lived a

#### Christmas Ball



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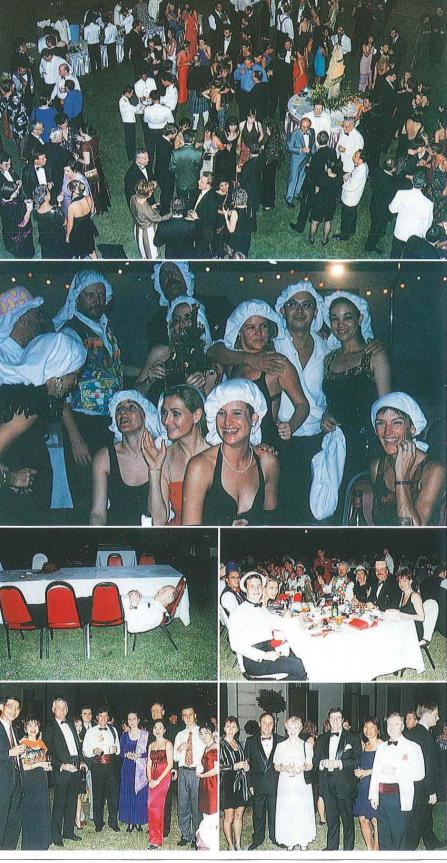
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37 FEBRUARY 1998 BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

# Seeing in the New Year à la BC

There are few finer ways to see in the New Year in Bangkok than watching the truly spectacular fireworks near the major riverside hotels having just spent a relaxed evening cruising up the serene Chao Phraya river, which is why the Club's River Cruise remains so popular. This year was no ex- ception as two full boats

— the Tubtims 1 and 2 — set sail from the River City pier at 8.30pm-ish with 168 guests on board, who were treated to finger food of smoked salmon and cocktail sausages downstairs and a full Thai and western buffet and car very upstairs, followed by dancing downstairs.

Several Club staff had worked hard from 10am that morning to ensure the trip was a success, for which thanks need to go to them all. The early load-up claimed two sickness victims among them this year as a result of serious karaoke-ing the previous night, and Khun Chirachada managed to find a floorboard on a boat in between ours and the pier which was rotten and promptly disappeared, but otherwise things went much to schedule!

This year the table plan idea paid off and most people were seated quickly and we pushed off from the River City more or less on time, after which some staff spotted a figure waving from the bank... until someone eventually realised that it was our GM Tom, so the Tubtim 2 returned to the pier to pick him up! The rest of the evening passed smoothly if somewhat humid, and all too soon we moored on the Thonburi bank to watch the fireworks.

This cruise is highly recommended as the river is so pleasant at night, especially with some of the more fabulous riverside landmarks beautifully illuminated along the way, and convivial company and a party atmosphere completes the setting for this event. Indeed, my only regret is that it finishes so soon after midnight, though an early docking does allow for continued partying around Bangkok...

#### Gaynor de Wit



FEBRUARY 1998

38





#### **River** Cruise

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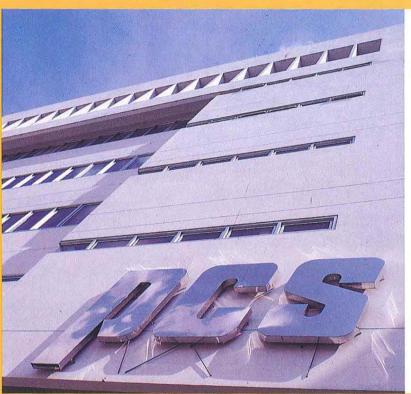














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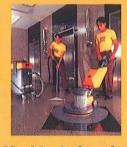
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DES

#### From the Chairman

ust after writing the report for January's Outpost I received a letter advising me that Geoff Percival, a long-time member and one-time Manager of this Club who died in May 1996, had very generously bequeathed the Club a sum of Bt 40,000 to be used for the purchase of furnishings for the Churchill Bar. Many of you will remember Geoff and, I am sure, be as gratified as I that he thought so much of the Club to make this very kind gesture. Exactly how this donation is to be used is, as yet, undecided but once it is settled you will be advised and, of course, suitable notice of Geoff's bequest will be displayed on the items themselves. Thank you, Geoff, we will remember you.

The Club has been pretty quiet over the past month so there doesn't seem very much for me to report. The troubling spate of apparent thefts on the premises seems to have abated, I am glad to say. Let's hope it stays that way.

I regret I have to report, however, that there have been two resignations from the General Committee recently. Firstly, Phil Evans, who held the post of Treasurer, and then Ian Webb, who was responsible for Membership matters. I am sorry to see them leave and should like to express my appreciation of the support they gave the Club whilst serving on the Committee. We have managed to co-opt Nick Bellamy, I am delighted to say, to cover the Treasurer's job but probably will not be trying to fill Ian's vacancy since there is so little time left to run now before the next AGM.

Speaking of the AGM, we are scheduling this for Tuesday 24th March, so please make a note of that now and do please make every effort to attend. The usual notices will, of course, be sent out to everyone at the appropriate time. We shall undoubtedly be looking for new members to join the General Committee so if any of you are interested and would like to stand, or if you know of someone who would like to, then please don't be shy in coming forward.



Dugal Forrest - Chairman

Dugal Forrest Chairman

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## **British Club General Committee**

		The Committee is:				
	James Young	Dugal Forrest	Chairman	T. 398 3807 F. 399 1564		
Dugal Forrest		James Young	Vice Chairman/Sport	T. 714 9040 F. 714 9039		
		Bernie Adams	Club Development	T. 674 0810-1 F. 210 2332		
		David Henton	Club Development	T. 254 6819 F. 254 4849		
		David Turner	Sponsorship	T. 279 1234 F. 279 1234		
Bernie Adams	David Turner	Mike Lamb	Sport/Sponsorship	T. 237 0777 F. 237 0780		
-		Colin Hastings	Club History	T. 240 3700-9x1511 F. 240 3843		
			d	T.326 0660 F. 326 1123		
David	Mike		Club Staf	f		
Henton	Lamb	Ciub Stari				



Colin Hastings



James Woodford



Tom Bain **General Manager** 



Barry Osborne **Operations Manager** 

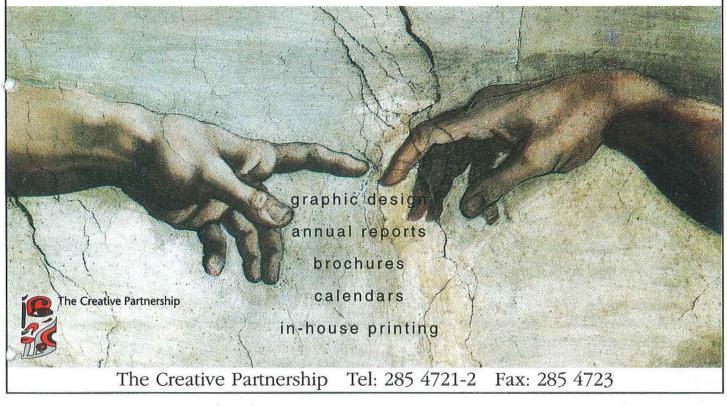
If you have any questions about the British Club or if you have any suggestions, please call any of the Committee Members above or the General Manager

FEBRUARY 1998

D.



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