



Outpost

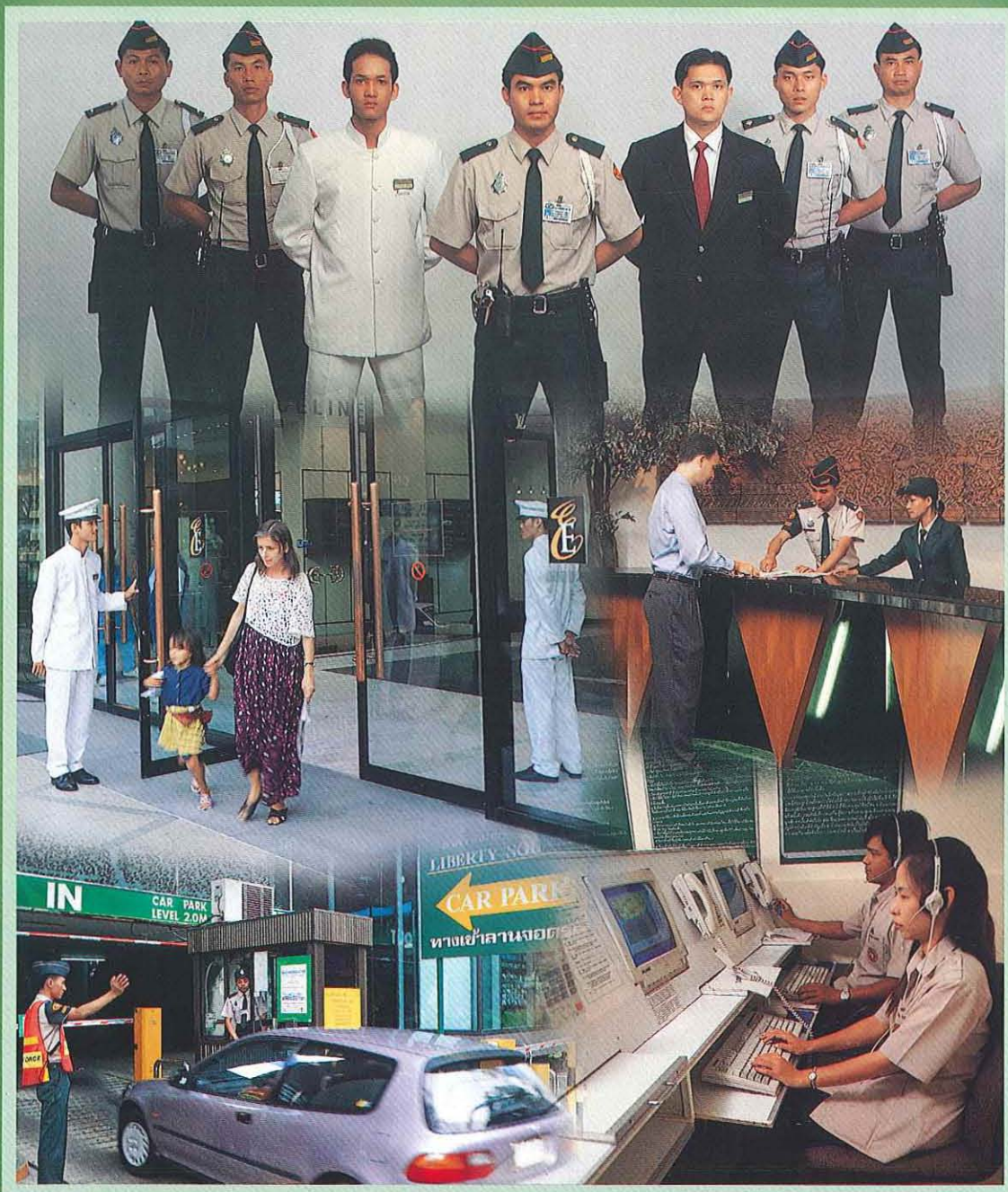
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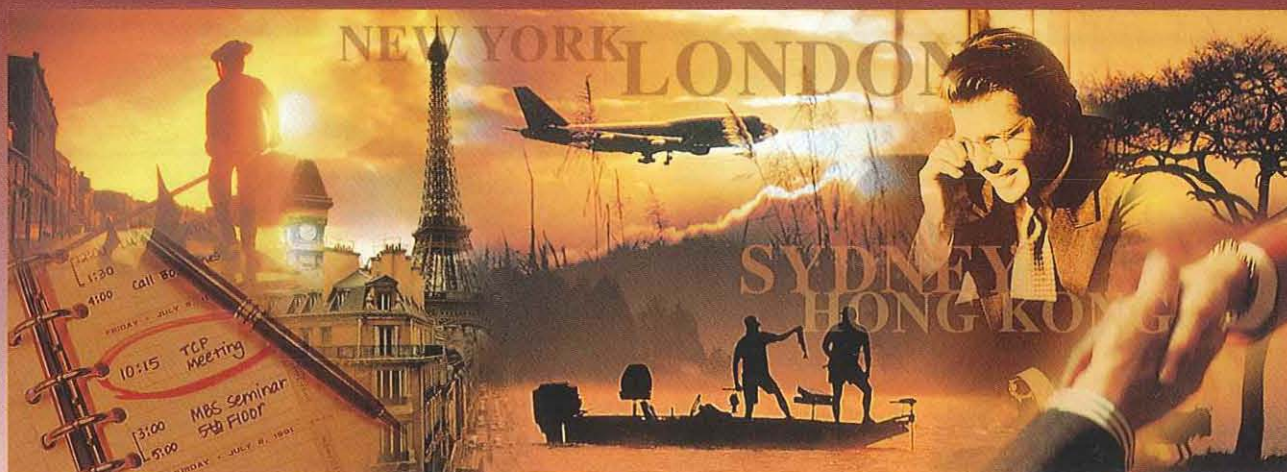
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The British Club

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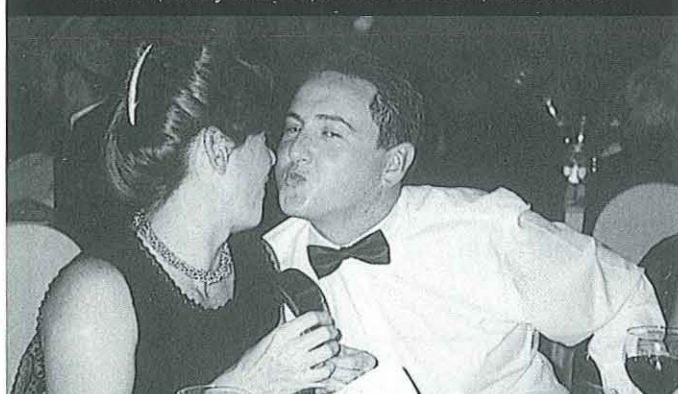
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Contributions

If you would like to Contribute to Outpost please contact the Editor, Sherry Conisbee, on Tel: 285 4721-3, Fax: 678 1292



Outpost Magazine

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



On the Front Cover:

Jingle Belles at the Christmas Ball

Children from Saitadsathien School for the Deaf

New members, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul and family

Too sexy for their shorts!

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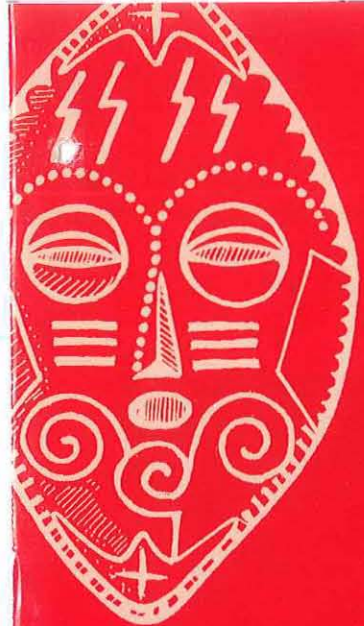


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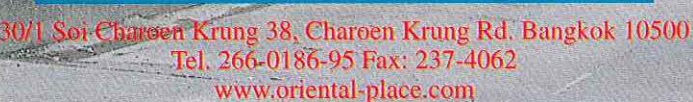
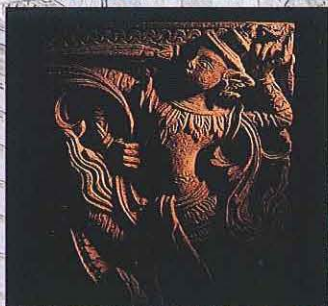


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Carols by Candlelight



In the capable hands of my colleague, Ian, my camera was working overtime at January's New Members' Night capturing everyone having a jolly good time. In addition to the 42 new members and their families who showed up, Andy Pickup was also there flogging his wares and doing a grand job; his efforts resulted in 5 new memberships for the St. George's Society, my husband being one of them. Well done Andy - it's not easy to prise money from any member of my family!

There were some interesting people there that evening - I was delighted to be introduced to Bangkok's Governor, Dr. Bhichit and his family who have recently joined; and Dodes Smith, a new Australian member whose delight at being in Bangkok is obvious and who has promised to contribute regularly to the pages of *Outpost*; and Howard Bryant, V.P. of a certain one-stop-shopping Supercenter who offered encouragement over my abysmal record at golf and recommended someone who could perhaps help me; and ebullient Khun Jintapat whose laughter was infectious. There were plenty of other great personalities and hopefully I'll bump into all of them again at the Club.

This issue's main focus is the Club's Christmas and New Year festivities. Thanks to the management and staff, Gaynor de Wit and a sprinkling of others, there are plenty of great photos inside. The Letters page holds some interesting comments this month - the saga of the Sala remaining top of the gripe list. Keep the letters coming but no more on this subject please! Margaret has kindly supplied another double-grid puzzle for you to mull over in February, with the winner of December's Prize Puzzle getting a well-deserved mention. Certainly not least is Committee Chairman James Young who has some good news on the arrival of the Club's new General Manager.

Coinciding with the Australian Open, our own BC Dunlop Tennis Championships got underway last month with many of the first-round and some of the second-round matches having already been won or lost. Finals day is scheduled for Sunday, 19 March; make a note to come to the Sala that day as although the event falls far short of the Aussie Open in terms of prize money, the excitement level is comparable - very nearly!

That time of year is here again when all members are encouraged to take part in the Clubs' AGM scheduled for 28 March, when the election of members to serve on the General Committee is an important Agenda item. How nice if a few women could be nominated this year to add a little logic and balance to this team which has been male-dominated for the past few years. How about it ladies? Start your election campaign now. Finally, for all those I've met recently who have expressed an interest in contributing to *Outpost*, the deadline for copy or photographs for any issue is the 10th of the previous month, i.e. for the April issue, I need your stuff by 10th March. Get writing...



Sherry Conisbee

Sherry Conisbee
Editor

This is the first time I've had to write a report for this particular section of *Outpost*. I normally avoid putting pen to paper due to my lack of 'proppa English' but I'm sure Sherry and the gang at The Creative Partnership will edit and package this so that even I won't know who's written it (*not so, Sir-S.*) I just hope they have luck in finding a decent photograph as usually I hide whenever a camera is pointed in my general direction. Most photos show me A) as looking asleep; B) I am asleep; C) unsmiling; or D) smiling but my eyes have disappeared. Perhaps we should just print a photograph of Charlie Chaplin as that is the name the staff here at the Club regularly refer to me as - thanks team! Anyway down to serious stuff. You will notice in this issue photographs of various events which took place over the festive season. It all seems such a long time ago now, doesn't it? I would like to thank all the members who attended; it was encouraging to see how popular they all were. No doubt the attendance figures exceeded ones in previous years thanks largely to the work of Khun Goi and her membership team. Also a big thank you to the staff who meet and plan these functions weeks and even months in advance of the event. You would be amazed at the number of crazy ideas that are kicked around at these meetings. Watching the team's enthusiasm and creativity grow as the event draws nearer is a pleasure to see, and I hope a little of that enthusiasm and fun is apparent to members when they attend the events.

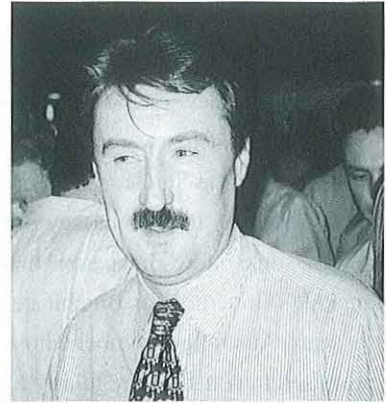
I would also like to say thank you to the individual members who support our catering services throughout the year and to the Loyal Societies who use our services fairly often. I always think the Club looks great in November when the car parks are packed to overflowing and hundreds of people gather on the front lawn for the St. Andrews dance practices. Our Clubhouse really does make a fantastic backdrop for these events. To be honest there are days when it would be nice to work in a brand new 5-star hotel environment where everything works properly daily, i.e. showers, lighting, etc. But then again our Club is nearly 100 years old and we are privileged to work in, or be members of, a piece of Bangkok's history.

I look forward to seeing you down at the Club. Please, if you have any ideas for future events or for improving our current ones, then do pass them on to us.

Many thanks.



Barry Osborne
Acting General Manager



Barry Osborne

Yuletide Prize Puzzle

We have a winner! Bob Boulter (B110) is the lucky recipient of a bottle of the best, kind courtesy of the BC. No need to divulge how many correct entries we received but a good clue is that Bob is also the winner of the runner-up 'booby' prize kindly donated by Margaret Miller, the compiler of all *Outpost's* puzzles and crosswords. Well done Bob! Here's the correct solution:

- A Addenda
- B Cheetah
- C Heeded
- D Rowdism
- E Islands
- F Shallower
- G Thoughtful
- H Messages
- I Abbess
- J Sixty-seven
- K Cowsheds
- L Awaked
- M Ripped
- N Operatic
- O Luck

Reading down, the initial letters of the solved clues read: **A Christmas Carol**. When the letters are transferred to the square, it reads:

"The chain he wore was clasped about his middle. It was made of cashboxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds and heavy purses wrought in steel."

Khun Sarakit Pongpaiboon

It is just over one year since the Club's long-serving Maintenance Manager, Khun Sarakit, died unexpectedly of a brain haemorrhage. This was a very sad time for his family and all of us at the Club who knew him.

The Club met all of Khun Sarakit's medical expenses and organised a collection to benefit his family. The collection raised B65,886 and was passed to his widow, Khun Thimm. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Khun Sarakit will always be remembered as a hardworking and pleasant colleague and is sadly missed by all staff at the Club.

AGM

The Club's Annual General Meeting takes place on Tuesday, 28 March at 7.00pm in the Surawongse Room. This is one of the most important events on the Club's calendar and participation by members is highly encouraged.

Entrance Fees

As of 1 January 2000, the Club's entrance fees are as follows:

Married over 30	B55,000
Married under 30	B27,500
Single over 30	B44,000
Single under 30	B22,000

There are new rates for those wishing to pay their entrance fees over 24 months. Please direct all membership enquiries to

the Membership Marketing team - K. Goi, K. Aey or K. Mo at the Club.

Membership Section Re-Structuring!

Totally ignore everything you read in last month's issue! For the time being all membership matters will continue to be dealt with by Khun Weena on Ext. 15.

If you know of any ideal candidates for membership to the Club, please inform K. Goi and she'll be on their tails in hot pursuit. Well done to her and the team on their record-breaking achievement.

Photography Lessons

Learn how to take great pictures with Mr. Eric Cholat who has over 30 years of photographic experience - and who speaks English, French and Thai with some German and Spanish. The course starts in February and will consist of six 3-hour classes at a cost of Baht 9,500. If interested, contact Damon Nemish at the Fitness Centre for full details.

Jamaican Food Promotion

11-13 February

Come and enjoy this pre-Valentines event! On Friday and Saturday (evenings only) and Sunday lunch and dinner, try our Caribbean-style 'eat-as-much-as-you-can' buffet. Prices, which include a welcome drink, are B500 for adults and B300 for children under 12. Sign up at Reception.

Bar Quiz

18 February

Serious competition is needed to defeat Swampy and his master spoofers! Prizes aren't terribly exciting, but who cares when so much fun is had. Teams of up to 6; 7.45pm in the Bar; cost B100 per person. Book at Reception or Email/fax us at the Club.

Wine Tasting

25 February

Not finally confirmed at time of going to print, but we're trying to organise a New Zealand wine tasting at the Club starting at 7pm. Keep your eyes open for details.

Star Cruise / Fly Saigon

A hiccup over costings and programme beyond the control of the Club has led to a management re-think concerning this trip and it has been decided to cancel it. Apologies to all those who had signed up.

Social Dancing

The ballroom dancing lessons due to start last month had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Instead we're introducing 'social dancing' starting on 2 May which will cover Waltz, Tango/Slow Fox Trot, Cuban Rumba and Cha Cha. This course will culminate in a party on 27 June. Enrol soon as this course will fill up quickly.

Farewells

Eight members jumped ship at the end of last year and to them and their families we say a fond farewell and best wishes for the future: Lydia Holmes, Aidan Lissner, Brian Jackson, John Meadows, Keith Murdoch, Jamie Hunter, Biony Girvan, Philip Pannell, Theodore Fisch.

What a Riot !

"If the kids are happy, we're happy". That's a fact! And this year's BC Children's Christmas Party kept a record number of them hugely happy for quite a few hours.



Mob scene at Santa's arrival



An Englishman might say.....

"If one motivates oneself to increase ones level of physical activity, henceforth creating a favourable metabolic response, one could possibly expect a complimentary effect on the form of ones posterior."

An American might say.....

"GETTING OFF YOUR BUTT IS THE FIRST STEP TO MAKING IT SMALLER!"

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Children's Christmas Party I

The back lawn was positively brimming with smiling young faces - over 180 of them. No wonder with so many attractions to keep them entertained.

The 'balloon typhoon' supplied by Amanda Patterson was a whizz; K. Na was there to paint the children's faces; magician Mr. Derrick ably assisted by K. Noi performed mind-boggling magic; horses from RBSC grazed at 'The BCB Farm' and provided rides for the youngsters; and clowns magically turned long balloons into odd-shaped animals.

The Club also provided plenty of attractions of its own, like cookies for the kids to decorate and masks they could make. And let's not forget the 'pin the nose on the snowman' competition, and K. Amnat and K. Asadang who looked fabulous as Cowboy and Cowgirl. Staff from maintenance, grounds, catering, the sala, fitness centre and office all contributed

in some way to make this day special; I think they had a great time too.

With so many children running around, we were a little unsure how Santa was going to arrive undetected. We devised a simple scheme of keeping the kids distracted with plenty of food but they weren't fooled for long... As soon as Santa rolled up in his Christmas Tuk Tuk, he was mobbed by excited children before he could say Ho! Ho! Ho!

A special thanks to Santa Claus for making the long trip from the North Pole without the help of Rudolph, Donner, Blitzen & Co, and for distributing the gifts to all 180 children in record time.

A final thanks to sponsors **Coca Cola** and **Nestlé** who helped with the supply of soft drinks and treats.

Damon Nemish

Sport and Recreation Coordinator



From the Chairman

After much deliberation by the Committee on the important matter of a replacement GM for the Club, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Mr. Willem Pentermann who will take up his new position in mid-March.

Willem is from The Netherlands and in addition to Dutch he also speaks English and German. Before accepting the management of the BC, he was General Manager of The Heritage Club and prior to that he held a variety of positions with The Landmark in Bangkok so he's not new to the trials and tribulations associated with the running of an establishment such as ours. He can also boast a spell at 'The Waldorf' in London so he'll feel right at home here! No stranger to the region either, he's been in Thailand since 1996 and has lived and worked previously in Singapore, Hong Kong and China. I'm sure Willem will have his work cut out for him over the coming months but I know he is enthusiastic about his new role and is looking forward to contributing to the ongoing development of the Club. I'm also certain that with help from the rest of the management team and all the staff at the Club, together with a friendly welcome and a lot of encouragement from the members, Willem will find his feet in no time.

I know you will all join me in wishing Willem a successful and enjoyable time at the Club.

James Young
Chairman













James Young



Willem and his wife, Nicole, with 2 year old son Bobby

The British Club General Committee 1999/2000

	Name		Tel.	Fax.
	James Young	Chairman	712 5407-9	712 5410
	Nick Bellamy	Vice Chairman	286 9999	236 5226
	Bernie Adams		675 6123	675 6120
	Alex Blackwood		682 5745	682 5745
	Peter Corney		714 2426	714 2430
	David Eastgate		672 0123-5	672 0127
	Dugal Forrest		398 3807	399 1564
	Chris Moore		747 9633	747 9677
	David Turner		618 6516	279 1234
	James Woodford		326 0660	326 1123

Club Staff



Barry Osborne
Operations Manager
& Acting General 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 on 234 0247, 266 4734 or 266 0597 or email us on <britclub@loxinfo.co.th>



Golf 2000

Happy New Year to all our golfers. If you are like me and determined to lower your handicap this year, here are some tips borrowed from the experts.



The best putter in the world

- When chipping from the fringe, stand close to the ball. Play it off your right toe with your feet close together. When making the stroke, pretend you are chipping the ball under a bench.
- For better putting control, especially on those three foot knee-knockers, shorten your back swing. Take the putter back just far enough to gain the needed momentum. Try to make your follow-through twice as long as your backswing.
- When you have to hit a low pitch shot and then stop the ball quickly on the green, play the ball back in your stance, keep the weight more on your left side and keep the clubhead low after striking the ball.
- Ben Hogan once said that the downswing is initiated by turning the hips to the left. The shoulders, arms and hands, in that order, then release the power. Try it. (I did and fell over.)
- You should always leave the pin in when chipping from off the green. After chipping thousands of balls, Dave Pelz found that 33% more chips went in with the pin in. The only time when it should not be left in is when it is leaning toward the incoming chip or being blown around in the wind.
- Keep your left foot firmly planted. If you lift the foot, it's easy to lift the whole body, which weakens the upper body coil.

- Choose a specific target when aiming. For example, instead of aiming at the entire fairway when hitting a drive, aim for the left half and play for a fade; instead of aiming at the entire green, focus on a large tree trunk behind the centre of the green.

Tee to Green

The New Year got off to a good start with a big turnout for the Club Day at Vintage. A special welcome back to the Poustie clan and Dick Blackmore. Two competitions were held to recognise the art of putting. The first was won by Hazel Fazackerley who had the least shots tee to green. Her reward was a putter to add to her seven wood which she won last year. Keep going Hazel as you'll soon have a full set. In second place was Jo Goodliffe with myself following up the rear. Brian Dodd had the least number of putts... 26! Mike Poustie and Ray Fazackerley were joint second with 28 putts. Near pin prizes went to Terry Adams, Carole Ann Eastgate, Mike Staples and Dick Blackmore. Pat Dean won the men's longest drive and Amazon for the day was Bridget Snow.

I've promised not to tell that the men were severely thrashed in a side bet and Peter Bond was seen trying to dump his partner in the lake off the 18th green!

Next Outings

Sun, 13 Feb at 12:00 - Medal 1 at Subhaprueck
Sat & Sun, 19 & 20 Feb - Intersocieties at Majestic Creek
Sun 27 Feb at 12:00 - Bernie's Bowl at Green Valley

Karen Carter



Show us your legs!



Boxing day outing



Best friends



Tee to green Hazel

Goodface says "The Millennium? Bah, Humbug!"

DISCLAIMER: Maj. Henry Goodface (retired) is a pedantic, misogynistic, chauvinistic old fool and the views expressed in his column are his and his alone and do not represent the views of the editor or any other reasonable thinking individual.

Well thank god for that. The coming of the Millennium, that great event we've had drummed into our heads ad infinitum has come and gone. And as expected, the whole thing turned out to be the biggest non-event since Oswald Mosley tried to reenact the Nuremberg rallies in Hyde Park and two people turned up. All the prophecies of momentous happenings, cataclysmic disasters, second comings and divine revelations have failed to be realised and the pundits are now all working on their excuses for having got it all wrong in a desperate effort to retain their credibility. "Yes I did say that the world would end and it has. What we're on now is the anti-world and the real world is continuing in a different dimension." Oh, I see.

"I predicted that Jesus would return and be seen riding down Oxford Street on a camel, and he did. It's just that the camel displayed some pretty nifty footwork and got through the traffic so quickly, nobody noticed him." Yes, of course. "Just as I predicted, the world would be invaded by aliens and our children would all be brain-washed and turned into idiots. Well what do you think the Pokemon craze is all about then?" Well done sir!

But as usual they'll get away with it and the same poor fools who believed them this time round will be sitting there transfixed listening to the "experts" when the next excuse for making great proclamations comes round.

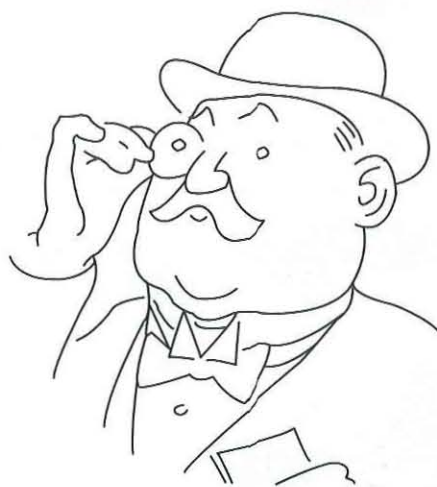
But without doubt the biggest laugh has to

be kept for the much vaunted "Y2K Bug". Oh, deary me, how droll. After all the billions of dollars, massive government campaigns and dire warnings of impending doom, what happened? Nothing. Where were all



the planes falling out of the sky, the trains ploughing into each other, computers the world over taking on a mind of their own and self destructing or leaping off the desk and attacking the master who kept it enslaved all these years? Of course nothing happened, shout the experts, thanks to our efforts we saved the world from disaster. Hmmm I'm not so sure.

You see the fact of the matter is, we were at the mercy of these damn technical types and they were the very ones creating panic by spreading stories of the terrible chaos that would envelope the earth unless everyone paid them millions of dollars to fix it. It was simply a high tech variation on the garage mechanic's ploy. "When was the last time you changed your air filter? You don't know? Oh blimey, well we'd better have a look then. Yes, just as I thought.



The dust has got in the carburettor and gummed up the return spring on the fuel inlet. That means the friction from the camshaft is going to make the valves stick and the thermostat on the injection system has probably already gone so the mixture's too rich and overheating the combustion chamber so the big ends are going to knacker the rocker box. I give you another 10, 15 miles and the engine'll blow, 18 at the outside. I tell you what guv'ner, you leave it with me a couple of days and I'll give the engine a complete overhaul and I'll only charge you 500 quid." You look at this slob in his greasy overalls leering at you over his plastic cup of tea and it's ten to one he's a complete charlatan and the whole thing is a fabrication. But what if he's telling the truth?

So for the computer chappies the whole thing was a breeze. Here they were, this crowd of bookish spectacle-wearing types, the picture of scrupulous honesty, with their computerised presentations about this fearsome sounding Y2K bug and speaking a totally different language which only they understood. Despite the fact that the worst thing that could actually happen is that your copy of the Times would turn up on the doorstep with the wrong date, these high tech highwaymen managed to convince us all that the world was on the brink of disaster.

The more they tried to explain, the more terrified people became. Innocent appliances suddenly became the subject of suspicion. People started making frantic phone calls to see if their tea maker was Y2K compliant, convinced that if it wasn't it would mutate into a club wielding Thuggee intent on seeking revenge for all the Darjeeling that had been pillaged from his homeland. Manufacturers tried to assure people that their refrigerator didn't need to be Y2K compliant to no avail. Convinced that at the stroke of twelve on New Year's eve this humble cooling device would develop telepathic powers and link up with refrigerators the world over to start the second ice age, normally sane people could be seen in their gardens hacking their

fridges to pieces with an axe, screaming, "You're not going to freeze me out of my home you cold hearted bastard!"

And meanwhile the experts were employed in computer centres the world over to protect us from this insidious evil. They stayed up all night eating pizza and playing solitaire before staggering out of the computer room in the morning declaring, "Oh wow, like this is really tough man. I've like written so much code to crack this thing I'm hurtin'. I'm working on this really cool algorithm but you're going to have to pay me another ten thousand bucks an hour man, cos this is like way too big. An' I need another ten guys to help out and a lot more pizza an' stuff or I'm like quittin' man."

"Yes, yes, anything you want, ten thousand's not enough, take fifteen thousand but please, for god's sake save us, save us, don't let us all die!!"

And the beauty of it was, if nothing happened, as it didn't, they'd all be held up as heroes for having saved the world. And if something did happen they'd all be saying "We told you so! We told you you needed to spend another billion dollars to prevent that."

A bloody good scam to be sure. Now why can't I think of something like that?

Major Henry Goodface(Rtd)

*Written and contributed by
Damian Jaume(J79)*

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APB/KEV/BKBC

Christmas Magic for the Deaf Children of Saitadsathien

Christmas is a time for giving and this now annual British Club function is only possible because of the generosity of a number of caring individuals and organisations, like the wonderful folks from BAMBI (Bangkok Mothers & Babies International) who donated the funds to cover the afternoon's entertainment

The programme of events mirrored as near as possible the previous day's Christmas party for members' children, but the atmosphere was quite different. The children from the Saitadsathien School for the Deaf were of course much quieter, communicating mainly in sign language with their friends and teachers. Facial expressions became increasingly important between all of us, and the children were noticeably more shy, standing patiently in line for each new

activity to start. But their shyness dissolved as the afternoon's entertainment progressed. The "Balloon Typhoon" and balloon makers were especially popular and the kids were totally enthralled by the magic of Mr. Derrick. The pictures say it all.

This event has been running for two years now and is a great way for the British Club to share something special with those slightly less fortunate during the most festive of seasons. Besides it's great fun.

On behalf of the management of The

British Club, I would like to say a tremendous thanks to all those people who provided the presents for each of these special children, to our generous sponsors - **BAMBI, Coca Cola** and **Nestlé**, to our own Khun Paitoon for playing Santa, to all the entertainers for giving these kids such a special treat and to the Club's staff for putting so much time and enthusiasm into making this day an exceptional one for everyone.

I do hope all the children enjoyed themselves. I know I did.

Damon Nemish

Sport and Recreation Coordinator



40 Years of St George in Bangkok

A celebration befitting this great milestone in the Society's history was laid on at the British Club at the end of October, attracting over fifty people.

These members and guests dined on several English specialities such as Lancashire hotpot and steak and kidney pie (well, steak and mushroom pie, near enough!) in a Lords restaurant brightly decked out with a giant commemorative Society banner over the buffet and lots of, er, Union Jack flags! President Andy took this opportunity to

present Jill Maconochie with the Vice President's medal; which nicely kicked off the proceedings. Another enjoyable and well-attended Society event, for which thanks must go to the Social Secretarial team and the Club.





Let's Squash Together

A little late perhaps, but Happy New Year and Sawatdi Pi Mai to everyone! It was a quiet Xmas around the BC as most of the regulars were holidaying in other places, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our regular sponsors, and some not so regular ones, for all the help they gave the squash section in 1999.



Martin Reid of Central Plaza Hotel rewards another successful Sunday mix-in winner

In last months report we listed all those who contributed to the 'Jingle Bells' Xmas handicap, but a special thanks to **Central Plaza Hotel** and its manager Martin Reid for their continued support.

Don't forget there is nothing like a good game of squash to get rid of those excess pounds (or is it kilos) gained over Xmas, so get to it!!

League 139

This was completed on 15 December and it was amazing the number of games played on the final day since there was no extension of the deadline.

Unfortunately December was a busy month for many members and they were unable to complete all their matches, which had a significant impact on the final positions. The winners of their respective divisions were:

1. David Eastgate
2. Nick White
3. Peter Corney
4. Chris Platt
5. Dave Parks
6. Wayne Needoba

Well done to all players. We have an even larger contingent signed up for January, with many new members joining the league.

Upcoming Matches

There are plenty being planned but this one is confirmed:

12 Feb - BC vs Mercure Hotel Pattaya at the BC Contact Dick Anwar for further details or if you wish to be on the team.

Chiengmai Cup

Just a reminder for your diaries that the annual Chiengmai Cup Doubles Tournament

is held at the RBSC on the weekend of 29 & 30 April and 1 May. This is an open competition and usually attracts teams from around the region as well as further afield. It is played on a traditional doubles court, one of the few remaining in the world, so if you fancy your chances you had better find a partner and start practising! Entry forms will be available at the BC closer to the date, or check the 'Squash in Thailand' website at www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/656/

It's Amazing

In a remarkable scoreline in the final of the opening international squash event of the century, the men's final of the \$40,000 Marsh & McLennan Apawamis Squash Open in New York, USA, England's Nick Taylor claimed the biggest title of his career when he beat compatriot Del Harris. The most amazing thing was the score! 15/9 9/15 15/9 9/15 15/9.

Olympics

Squashies around the world are still working hard to get the sport accepted for the Athens Olympic Games in 2004, after being let down by the Australian Olympic committee for the 2000 games. If you want to sign the petition being organised by the World Squash Federation you can go to www.squash.org/tournaments/olympics/

Play better Squash

The thing that confuses most people about squash is the lets and strokes. Where you have two (or more) people running around a small room with a fast travelling ball and flying rackets there is an element of danger, so the main reason for the let rules is safety.

If there is any chance of hitting your opponent with either ball or racket, then stop - sorry Marvyn, but it was only 3 times in one game, and I'm sure the bruises will soon be gone.

The rules are very simple to follow, so I will quote the rule book:

12. Interference

12.1 The player whose turn it is to play the ball is entitled to freedom from interference by the opponent.

12.2 To avoid interference the opponent must make every effort to provide the player with:

12.2.1 Unobstructed direct access to the ball.

12.2.2 A fair view of the ball.

12.2.3 Freedom to hit the ball.

12.2.4 Freedom to play the ball directly to any part of the front wall.

You can only ask for a let when there has been interference. The referee must then determine the following sequence:

1. Was there Interference - Yes, go to 2 / No, 'No Let'

2. Was the outgoing player making every effort to give access - Yes, go to 3 / No, 'Stroke'

3. Was the incoming player making every effort to get to the ball - Yes, go to 4 / No, 'No Let'

4. Could the incoming player play a winning shot - Yes, 'Stroke'; No, 'Yes Let'.

The referee must go through all of those questions, in sequence to make a decision.

The question of what is a 'winning shot' always raises hours of discussion, and it gets harder the higher the standard of the players. It comes down to the decision of the referee at that time (unless one of the players is lying on the floor).

Question: *You are standing at the back wall, your opponent hits the ball to the back and you wait to take it as it comes off the side wall. You see he is too close and shout 'let'. The ball then hits the nick and dies. What is the referee's call?* Answer next month.

Contributions to Outpost

All members are encouraged to submit any comments or gossip etc for inclusion in *Outpost*, if you have anything at all fax it to Philip Hall 226 6500 or e-mail to philhall@postmaster.co.uk

Phil Hall



The teams from last year's match with Rajpruek Club, still looking friendly before they get down to it

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Calendar

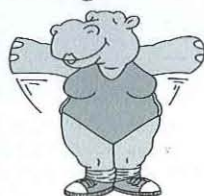
British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - February 2000

Sundays



11 am - 1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12 noon - 2 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3 - 6 pm Tennis Mix-in
5.30 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

Mondays



8.00 am BWG Mahjong
9.30 am Aerobics
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim
Training
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour
7 - 9 pm Tennis Team Training

Tuesdays



7 am Ladies Golf
8 - 10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
3 - 5 pm BC Swimming Instruction
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour
7 - 9 pm Football Training
7.30 pm Darts
8 - 11 pm Friendly Bridge
9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof

Wednesdays



9.30 am Body Shaping
4.30 - 9 pm Squash Coaching
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour
6 - 9 pm Tennis Mix-in
6.30 pm Cricket Nets

Thursdays



8 - 10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6 - 7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim
Training
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour
6 - 9 pm Squash Mix-in
7 - 9 pm Rugby Training
9 - 10 pm Hockey

Fridays



9.30 am Step Aerobics
3.30 - 6 pm BC Tennis Coaching for
Children
4 - 6 pm BC Swimming Instruction
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior
Squad Training
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

Saturdays



9 am - 12 noon Squash Coaching
9 am - 1 pm BC Swimming Instruction
4.00 pm Casuals Football
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

MAKE A NOTE!

- Saturday, 4th March is the St. David's Society Ball with the fabulously harmonious HK Welsh Male Voice Choir. Contact Carol Sandarusi (591 0694) for tickets.
- The Club's AGM is to be held at 7pm on 28 March. Do make a note to attend and support your Club.
- The Caribbean comes to Lords between 11-13 February. Book a table and come and enjoy some exotic Jamaican cuisine.
- Calling all bright sparks! Make up a team of 6 and join us in the Churchill Bar for an entertaining Quiz on Friday, 18 February.
- The Bangkok Community Theatre (BCT) Club Nights cover a wide variety of theatre-related topics and take place on the first Thursday of every month. Come along and join in the fun - or just take a back seat if you prefer.
- Don't forget the special tennis and swimming classes for children - contact Damon Nemish for full details.

For more news and further details on the above, check out 'Management News' on page 9.

Sports - Contact

Aquatics	Michele Law	295 4595
Badminton	Anant Leighrahathorn	654 0002-29
Bridge	Ernest Lee	612-3580 ext 503
Cricket	Nick White	246 0832
Football	Martin Conisbee	366 0432
Golf	Bernie Adams	675 6123
Rugby	Jon Prichard	662 6376
Sailing	Damon Nemish	266 0597
Scuba Diving	Peter Gary	634 7792
Squash	Peter Corney	381 7240
Tennis	David Blowers	285 4721-2

Venues

Badminton	Soi Nares, behind Bangrak Police Station
Aerobics	Squash Court 3
Casuals Football	Colgate Ground, Rama III
Massage	Near the BC Squash Courts

Opening Times

10 am - 11 pm	Churchill Bar
11.30 am - 2 pm	Lords Restaurant (Lunch)
6 pm - 10 pm	Lords Restaurant (Dinner)
7.30 am - 10 pm	Poolside Bar
6 am - 9 pm	Fitness Centre
9 am - 9 pm	Fitness Centre (Sundays/Holidays)
9 am - 6 pm	Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)

A Festive Innings at Lords

Lords Restaurant was possibly the most popular venue in the whole of Bangkok on Christmas Day. Catering for over 150 diners at lunch and dinner, it was definitely our busiest Christmas ever - and we loved it!

With all the decorations, Christmas music and Quality Street (kindly provided by Khun Donna), I think everyone who came along was soon feeling 'Christmassy' and full of seasonal cheer. Unfortunately our special effects department couldn't conjure up any snow, but what the heck, they came up with everything else! From party hats and crackers to roast turkey and Christmas pud, and even Santa made a guest appearance loaded with gifts for all the children. It was mentioned by a few that he was looking far too young and thin to be the real thing (Ho Ho!), but I thought

he was great. Perhaps next year someone could remember to leave out the Sherry and mince pies for me... er, him!

Once again, thanks to all the members who supported us on this special family day. Especially those who sat patiently at lunchtime while Christmas spirit turned to Christmas chaos. Everybody got their turkey - eventually!

See you next year I hope.

Barry Osborne

(More pictures p.34)



Flummoxed in February

Solve the clues A to P and enter in the spaces. Each letter is numbered - transfer the letters to the correspondingly numbered spaces in the big square and you will find a quotation from the autobiography of the star of many old British films. Reading down, the initial letters of the solved clues A to P will give you the title of the book.

- A Deceived about fifty and leaked out
- B Mount yours and air your favourite views!
- C Not included
- D Ken seems put out - in a state of submission
- E "Oh Ban - the Bomb?" Heard in a Scottish resort!
- F Just bits and pieces
- G "All the world will be in love with ____" (Romeo & Juliet)
- H In good order in the main
- I A weak end maybe - but conscious
- J Smash quickly for matutinal intake!
- K Devotion to
- L His plight at sea - saved by this?
- M Correspondence
- N One port up, maybe, but timely
- O Supervised and disregarded
- P "I would dedicate this nation to the policy of good ____"

(Franklin D. Roosevelt)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		
35	36	37	38						
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51					
52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68		
69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	
87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	
96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103		
104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	
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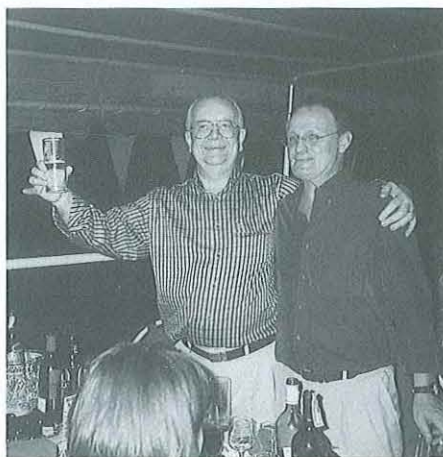
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		122	35	107	116			84	37	120	83	8		
		101	20	4	99	55	51			74	39	70		
12	117	78	85	30		103	109	129	21	73	94	47	89	33
	80	43	6	79		130	105		61	36	10	114	65	
	1	127	22		98	111	7	71	56			128	13	
	59	125	31	64			49	63	82	24	28	108	46	
62	54	91	90		11	87	110	25		131	104	17	121	34
	118	38		77	14	115	42			72	44	26		
23	97	66	5		50	3	126	53	93	18	60	96	32	41
		52	57	119	67	102								

Full Sail into the New Millennium

No sails, in fact, on Tub Tims I and II but nevertheless these vessels were once again filled to capacity with eager revellers wishing to see in the New Millennium on the river.



Oh no, the Ghost of Millennium Past!



"To World Peace and More Beer!"

The usual hurdle of trying to ensure that members actually got aboard the right boat was made even more difficult this year by the fact that half of Bangkok turned up at River City to scramble onto one vessel or another. Thankfully, and goodness knows how, we weren't too late in setting off.

My first thought was that the Club staff had done a grand job of decorating the Tubs. (*Did you know that our team takes over the boats from 9am in the morning and scrubs them from bow to stern in readiness for this event?*). My second thought was that I hoped we had remembered the Champagne!

On our way upriver, we were lucky enough to catch sight of some of the wonderful sound and light shows being staged on the riverbanks. I thought the shows at Wat Arun and the Grand Palace were particularly impressive.

Not surprisingly the river was packed that night and the fumes from the hundreds of boats were overpowering at times. I hope this didn't spoil anyone's fun. Also, the evening turned out to be stiflingly hot as

the nice cool breezes of a few days before had suddenly disappeared - better than freezing back in England though!

The firework displays were, as expected, spectacular and the night-time sky was a blaze of sparkling colours. Forget Times Square, London's River of Fire (oh yeah!) or even New Year in Red Square - I actually watched this at 4am on CNN, how boring! **THE** place to be on New Year's Eve was definitely Bangkok on our own majestic River of Kings.

I do hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did. It certainly looks that way from the photographs.

Many thanks to everyone who shared this special night with us. Also thanks to all the staff who once again joined us in welcoming in another New Year.

Barry Osborne



Ending an Era

The last British Club Ball of the 1900s has come and gone, and what a dazzling affair it was.

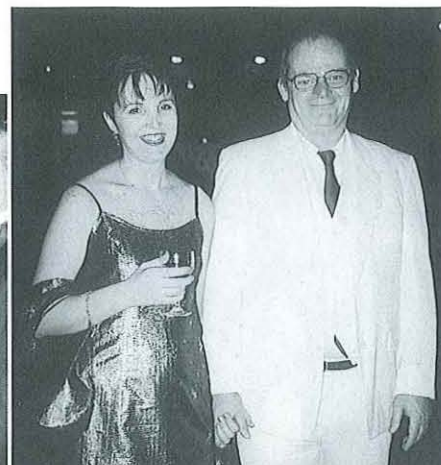
There is certainly no better venue for a Ball than the delightful setting of The British Club and, as tradition dictates, the evening began with cocktails on the front lawn. Members and guests mingled happily, enjoying the festive atmosphere and a pre-dinner drink before being called to dinner. Everyone seemed in high spirits and after coffee had been served and the band struck up, there was the usual enthusiastic rush onto the dance floor.

In addition to the live music of 'Tony & Friends', DJ Paul Jackson also helped the evening go with a swing, playing Christmas songs during dinner and some lively dance music later in the evening.

An unseasonal rain shower at about 1.30am had everyone running for the Churchill Bar; I'm really not sure how they all managed to cram in. The bar finally emptied out at about 5.30am - what better proof of a great evening than when people don't want to go home!

Many thanks to the Dusit Thani for providing the catering and staff, and to the sponsors for the evening: **Carlsberg** for the provision of beer, **Coca Cola** for the soft drinks and **PTK Marketing & Management** for the welcome drinks and table wines. Many thanks also to the Club's VIP guests that evening: the Australian Ambassador, His Excellency William Fisher and wife Kerry; and Paul Sizeland, Deputy Head of Mission from the British Embassy. And finally, thanks to all the members and guests who joined in that evening and made the occasion so special.

Barry Osborne



Pre-party drinks on the front lawn



Bernie Adams, Gaynor de Wit and Martin Conisbee



Kerry Fisher presenting one of the many prizes

Christmas Ball 1999



The Loyal Toasts



Introductions of the honoured guests



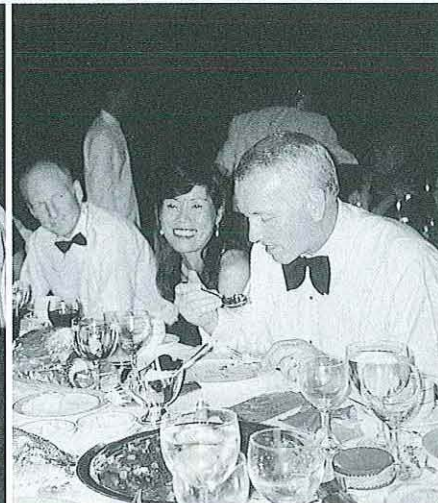
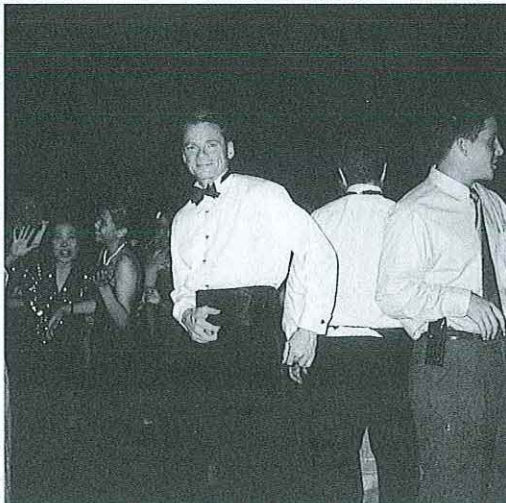
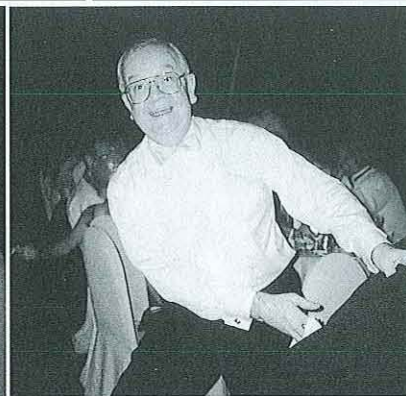
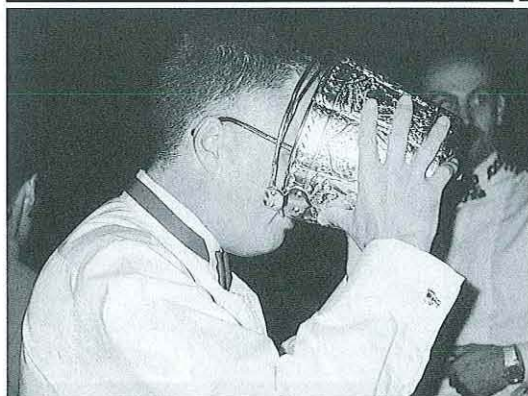
Chairman James Young, Australian Ambassador H.E. William Fisher and Mrs. Kerry Fisher



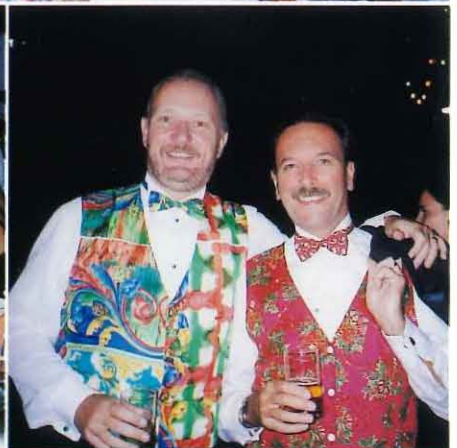
Tom and Rodney Bain (no relation) with Kerry Fisher



'I keep me small change doon there too, lassie'







16 January 2000

Dear Sherry,

It's that time again!

It must be about time for another one of my whingeing* and whining* letters (*please delete as applicable).

January's *Outpost* had some very strong words from member R11, several of which I must agree with - the Suriwongse Sala fiasco being the prime one. However, it is really bad taste to print the GM's salary. Is nothing sacred?

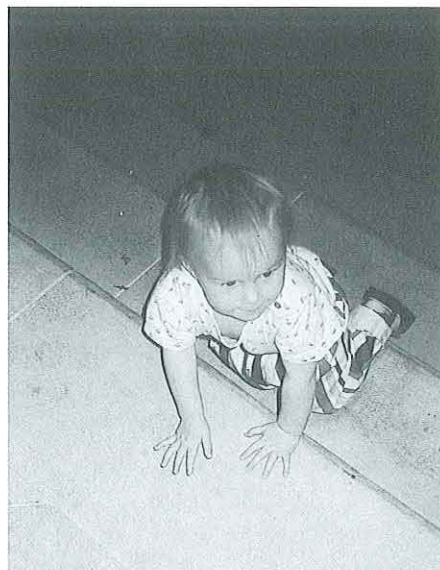
Whilst we are on that subject, and it was not I who published it, but if we are paying less than half a decent salary, are we only expecting a less than half decent GM? In this stride, I notice that the Chairman takes pride in the fact that they ratify all GM decisions. Perhaps thus we do not need a GM only some more **Committee Resolution Action Puppets**?

Changing the subject, and back to the norm - when will members remind their guests to switch off mobile phones whilst in the sanctuary and bliss of the Churchill Bar? A string of violations again last night. Maybe the bell fine will be considered by the Acting GM, or the new one?

And lastly, Quiz Nights are fun, good humoured and need lots of people to make them really tick (and to beat the Spoofers Team). So then, why, oh why, is the next one again on the Friday ahead of a long weekend when most people want to leave Bangkok?

But if you are not leaving town on 18 February... Do come along - it is a good night.

And so good night (or good day depending on when you are reading this).



Hands-on project management in the sala (if only she'd arrived sooner!)

Yours sincerely,
Paul Cheesman (C267)

29 December 1999

Dear Madam,

The club has a dress code and quite rightly so. May I suggest that it should also have a drinking code.

For example, in the Churchill Bar, surely drinks should always be drunk out of glasses, not bottles, in keeping with good manners and respect for other members.

Yours faithfully,
Richard Bones (B100)

Hear! Hear!

Yes, I know what you mean... finding someone in the bar swigging their Cabernet Sauvignon 1995 directly from the bottle would certainly cause Churchill to turn in his grave! Ah, but perhaps you're referring to that more murky beverage, beer, upon which I am unqualified to comment, being a non-user myself.

I looked to Barry for guidance on this tricky one and here's what he said. "The bar staff will always offer a glass to any member ordering a beer but there is no rule, as yet, that forces the member to pour it into the glass before drinking." So should there be? Well, in the sure knowledge of being labelled a pompous old git (for which I am admirably qualified), I for one can understand Richard's point. Of course I hesitate to mention this, but I suppose it would be considered a serious breach of etiquette in many circles (in Mexico anyway) to decant a bottle of Corona into a glass before drinking it, so I suppose an exception might have to be made in this case. If anyone has anything to say about the merits of the beer bottle over the beer glass, then speak up.

TheEd.

Letters from Members

11 January 2000

Dear Sirs,

I was very surprised indeed to read in the Chairman's fact sheet (December *Outpost*) about the refurbishment costs of the Surawong Sala, particularly in view of the fact that I am in the completion stages of a 2 floor, 3-bed 3-bath villa for not much more than his total price of 1.9m baht!

I visited the Club a few days ago and made a point of going to look at what we had got for all that money. Precious little it seems, and certainly no bargain. That floor is a disgrace - already 'tatty' and will only get worse. The teak is nice but at 374,000 baht - wow! I would like to know how many table/chair sets we got for that. I hope the deal includes some spare sets for replacements.

However, my main beef is how we have been 'ripped off' by the Architect/Contractor etc. Did we really try hard enough? Did we look at local Thai companies - it was not a big job after all. Did we ask any of the 1000 members for suggestions, or did we just ask a few fancy "international" outfits, which carry such huge costs (look at your own salaries)!

As a matter of fact, my architect, a very capable lad from Nakhon Phatom, has done a first rate job for 3.75% of project costs and paid his draughtsman and structural engineer out of that!

On my return home to Kanchanaburi, I found the January *Outpost* had arrived and was not surprised to note like-minded comments from Mr. Reid and others.

I hope the General Committee will be much more circumspect and careful over any future projects like this, and especially when seeking "expert opinions", and not overlook the local expertise nor the potential among the membership.

Yours sincerely,

T.R.Moore(M271)



Meet the Staff

Three Cheers for Khun On

Khun Asadang Chaijun (Khun On) has been at the BC since April 1997. She started as a member of the bar staff, transferred to the stores and then Lords Restaurant, and is now back in the Churchill Bar.

Born in Chaiyaphoom Province, she moved to Suphanburi when she was 18 to live with her sister's family. There she helped her sister to grow rice and water melons, and sell noodles. But the bright lights finally lured her to Bangkok where she started work as a waitress in a hotel restaurant, while at the same time studying at Dusitatan Secondary School in the evenings to complete her basic education. There was no stopping her then; she progressed to evening studies at Siam

Commercial College and worked in the day as a clerk for a construction company. Khun On heard of the vacancy in the Churchill Bar through a neighbour, Khun Pradub, who at the time was working as a receptionist at the Club. And that was how life at the BC began...

Sociable and enthusiastic, Khun On has a passion for Karaoke and a liking for a certain Dutch beer! Say 'cheers' when you see her in the bar.



Khun On

Interviewed for Outpost by
Ratchanida Tippayalert
Administration Officer

Peter Mawditt and Jintapat 'Jip' Rongsopa



Peter and Jip

This couple has a lot in common; they both work at Standard Chartered Bank, both enjoy squash, swimming and scuba diving - and despite their back-to-back pose, they're really quite good friends! Peter, who also enjoys badminton and running, has two children back in the UK, David who is working for a holiday company before starting Uni, and 16 year old Jill who is studying A Levels. No stranger to this region having lived previously in Singapore and Hong Kong, Peter has now been here in Thailand for a couple of years and is hoping to stay for... well, as long as possible.

Michael and Maria Teresa Turner



Michael and Teresa

Brit Michael is GM at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza and quite a sports enthusiast; he lists tennis, badminton, squash, table tennis, soccer, golf, hockey and volleyball as his favourite sports. Teresa is Chilean and her most-enjoyed sports are tennis and squash. They've been in BKK for only a few short months but are expecting to stay 2-3 years. Their three boys of 12, 9 and 4 are all studying at NIST.

Dr. Bhichit and Chareeya Rattakul



Chareeya and Bhichit

A well-known personality in Thailand and an honoured new member, Dr. Bhichit heads up the BMA (Bangkok Metropolitan Administration) as Governor. He and his wife, Chareeya, have two children, both students; their daughter Bhichariya is pictured with them on the front page. Dr. Bhichit's favourite exercise is swimming, while Chareeya prefers a game of tennis.

Paul and Zoe Hurd



Zoe and Paul

Another of the many new members working at Standard Chartered, Paul is the bank's Treasurer whose off-duty hours are quite likely to be spent on the golf course. Brits Paul and Zoe have spent the past 3 years in Singapore, arriving in Thailand just a few short weeks ago. Zoe keeps pretty busy looking after their 3 month old daughter, Katie, but hopefully still has time to pursue her favourite hobbies of Mahjong and handicrafts.

Adam and Christine Elliott



Christine

Aussie new member Christine and her N.Z. husband Adam are both computer consultants with BHP IT. Adam has worked overseas before in Indonesia but for Christine Bangkok is the first posting abroad - hope you're enjoying it. They've been here about a year with two more to go. Both like playing squash and Christine also enjoys the team sport of netball.

Kenneth Livesey



Kenneth

Originally from the Isle of Man, Kenneth is a long-term in Bangkok; he's been here 9 years so far and hopes to stay many more. A much-travelled gentleman having visited most of the Middle East and Asia on business, he is with Lawton Consultants as Associate Director. After all these years in Thailand, he's finally taking up golf! He's also a football fanatic - spectator only these days - and supports Div 1 team Blackburn Rovers. Yes, they need a bit of support!

Jeffrey and Valerie Sanders



Jeffrey

Operations Director with FASCO Motors, Jeffrey and his wife Valerie are Australian. They have lived previously in England, New Zealand and Pakistan and are expecting to stay in Thailand for a couple of years. Valerie's hobby is needlework but Jeffrey is keeping quiet about his favourite forms of relaxation. Hopefully, though, he'll be spotted at various BC events - and in the bar of course.

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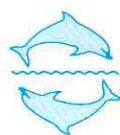
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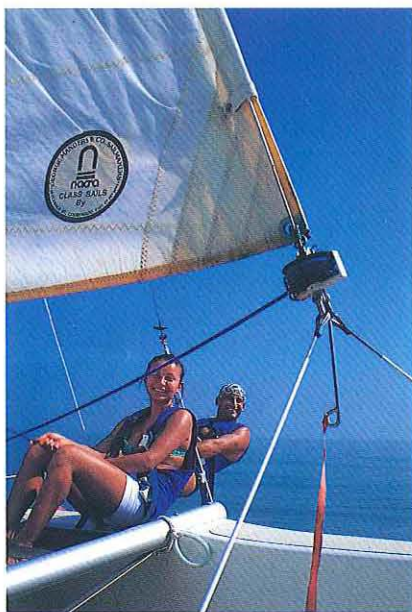
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Capt. Steve Ponter and Samran Chansom



Steve and Samran

Golfer Steve is Australian but he has been anchored in Thailand for some 24 years, so undoubtedly calls this place 'home'. He's lived previously in Singapore, Vietnam, USA and the UK and today is Senior Manager at the Soon Hua Seng Group. Samran manages everything at home, especially the cooking which is her main hobby. They have 3 children - 23 year old Somsak studying in New Zealand, and Elizabeth (14) and Catherine (12) who are both students in Bangkok.

Andy Talling and Beata Yeung



Beata and Andy

Newcomers to Bangkok, Andy and Beata have been in Hong Kong for the past few years. They're both hoping to learn golf while in Thailand - plenty of time to reach an 18 handicap as they'll be here for 3 years! Cornish Andy enjoys weight-lifting, playing squash and badminton, and rumour has it he's being scouted to play rugby. When he's

not being physical, he likes playing the guitar. Beata, from Hong Kong, prefers to get her exercise in the gym - or the shops!

Mark Greener and Vanessa Sharp



Mark and Vanessa

Mark, a Manager at Alstom, knows his way around Bangkok having been here a few years already. He reckons he's very unfit but nevertheless is a fan of squash, golf and soccer - in fact he's just been prised away from the 'Brazilians' football team and hopefully will soon be playing for the BC's 'Casuals' where he'll be kicked into shape!

Vanessa is a kindergarten teacher at Twinkle Star and enjoys aerobics, tennis and a bit of Latin-style dancing. Both are brand new members of the St. George's Society having been nobbled at New Members Night into signing up by Society Chairman Andy Pickup.

Jan and Elisabeth Van Den Broecke



Elisabeth and Jan

Jan and Elisabeth are from Belgium; the records would have to be checked but possibly they're the first Belgian couple to join the BC! Jan, Marketing Manager with Ajinomoto Sales, and Vanessa have 3 teenage sons and have lived previously in Western Samoa and France; they've been in Thailand since August last year. Hobbies

for Jan are English/American literature and wine tasting; and for Elisabeth it's French literature and aerobics. They both like swimming and Jan also plays squash and tennis.

Jonathan Murphy and Gencee Lodge



Jonathan and Gencee

Dubbed 'Spud' by a few but hotly denied by himself, Jonathan is a newcomer to Bangkok on a 2 year contract with Pricewaterhouse Coopers and is a fan of golf, tennis and rugby. Strangely enough, Gencee is also doing 2 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers and a fan of golf, tennis and soccer. Just like peas in a pod...! Welcome to Bangkok - and to the Club.

Brad Dorohoy and Debbie Vopni



Brad

If asked to guess where Brad works, you'd probably be right - he's yet another of the new BC intake who's working for Standard Chartered Bank. Canadians

Brad and Debbie have lived in some great places before - Hong Kong, USA, Spain and Chile - and they've been living in Bangkok for about 4 months. Both enjoy a game of tennis; Brad also plays golf and his hobbies are hiking, music and travel. Debbie is employed at Eastern Gateways and for relaxation she practices Yoga. That's an interesting surname Brad - what's the background?

Howard and Stella Bryant



Howard

Bangkok is the first posting for Howard where he is Executive VP at Tesco Lotus. His wife, Stella, is a nurse and they have 2 sons - 20 year old

Tom who is at University and 18 year old Andrew who's taking a 'gap year'. Howard and Stella have been here for about 18 months and expect to stay a few more years - enough time for Howard to play a few more rounds of golf.

Christmas Day at the BC

Continued from p.21



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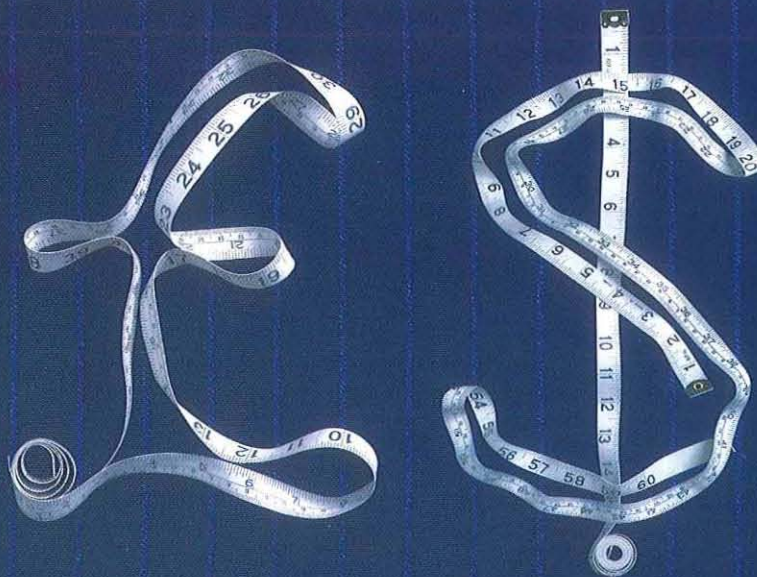
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