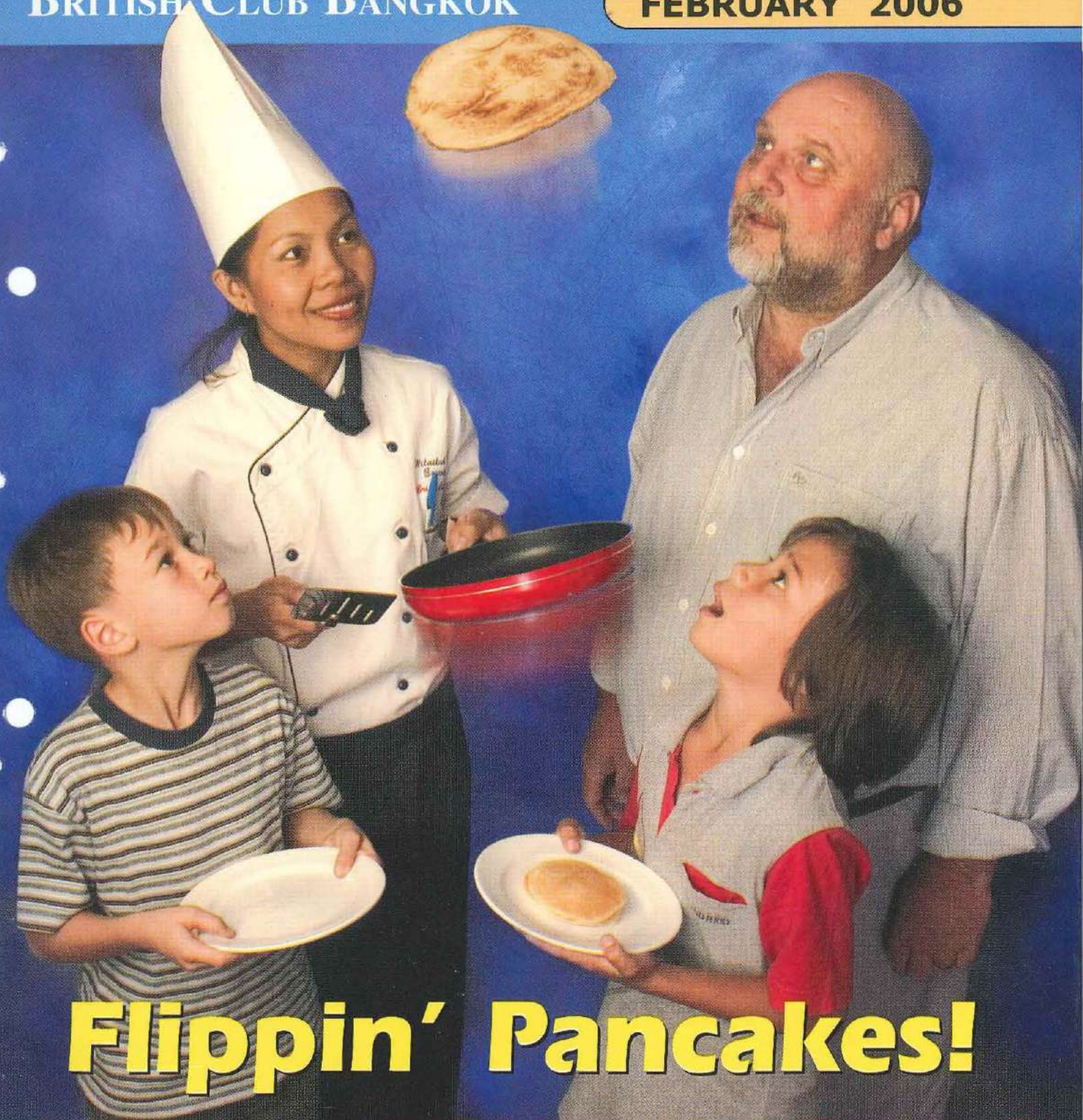




OUTPOST

BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

FEBRUARY 2006



Flippin' Pancakes!

Shrove Tuesday Issue

It's flippin' Pancake Day again!

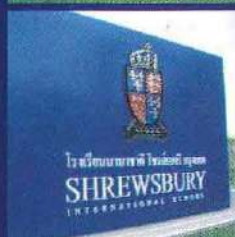
Khun Noo, BNH Hospital, Pancake Races! Little Britain



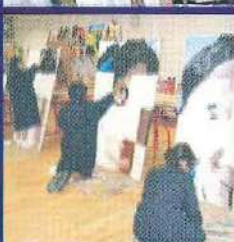
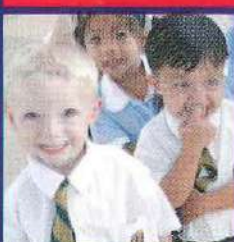
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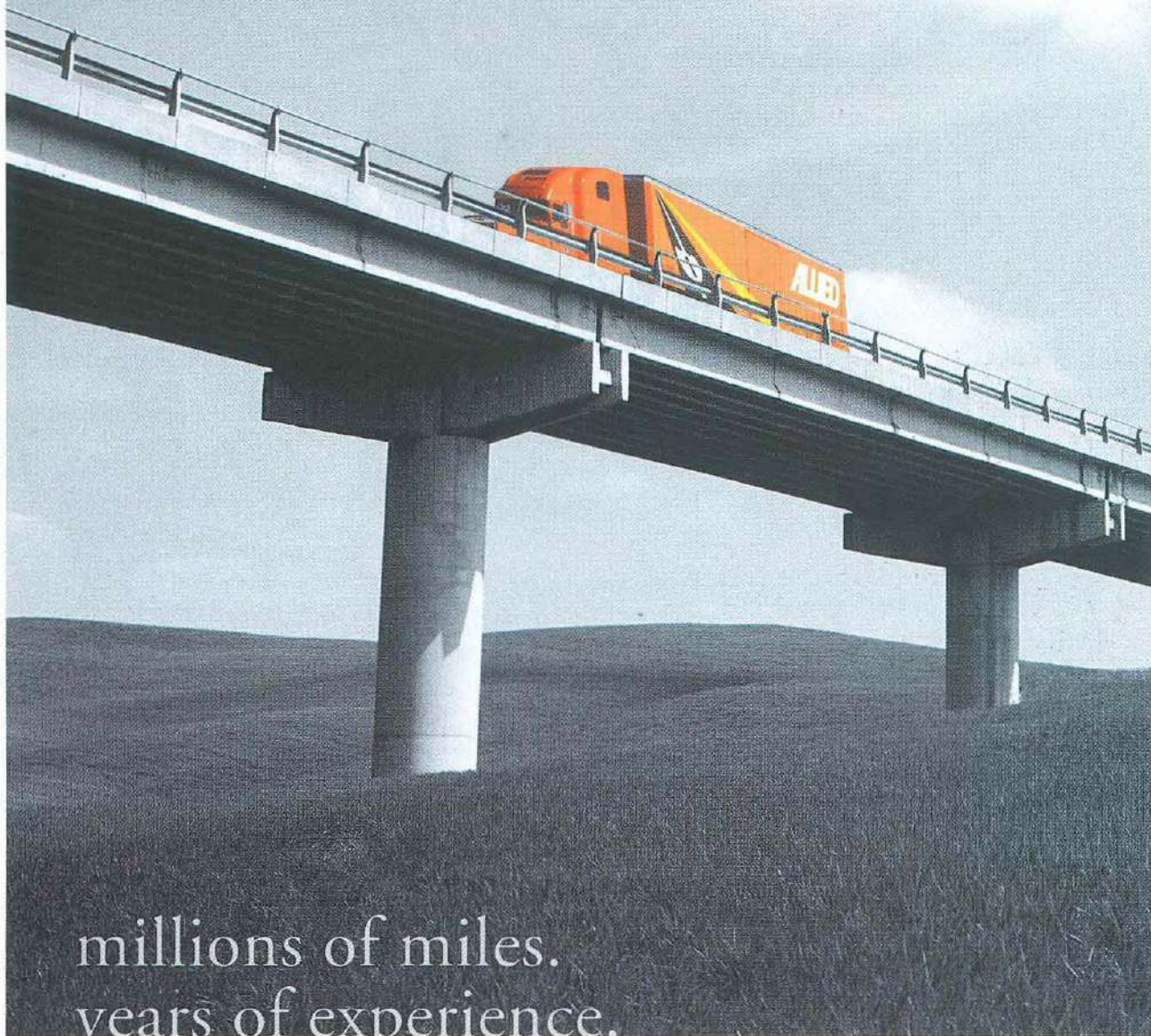


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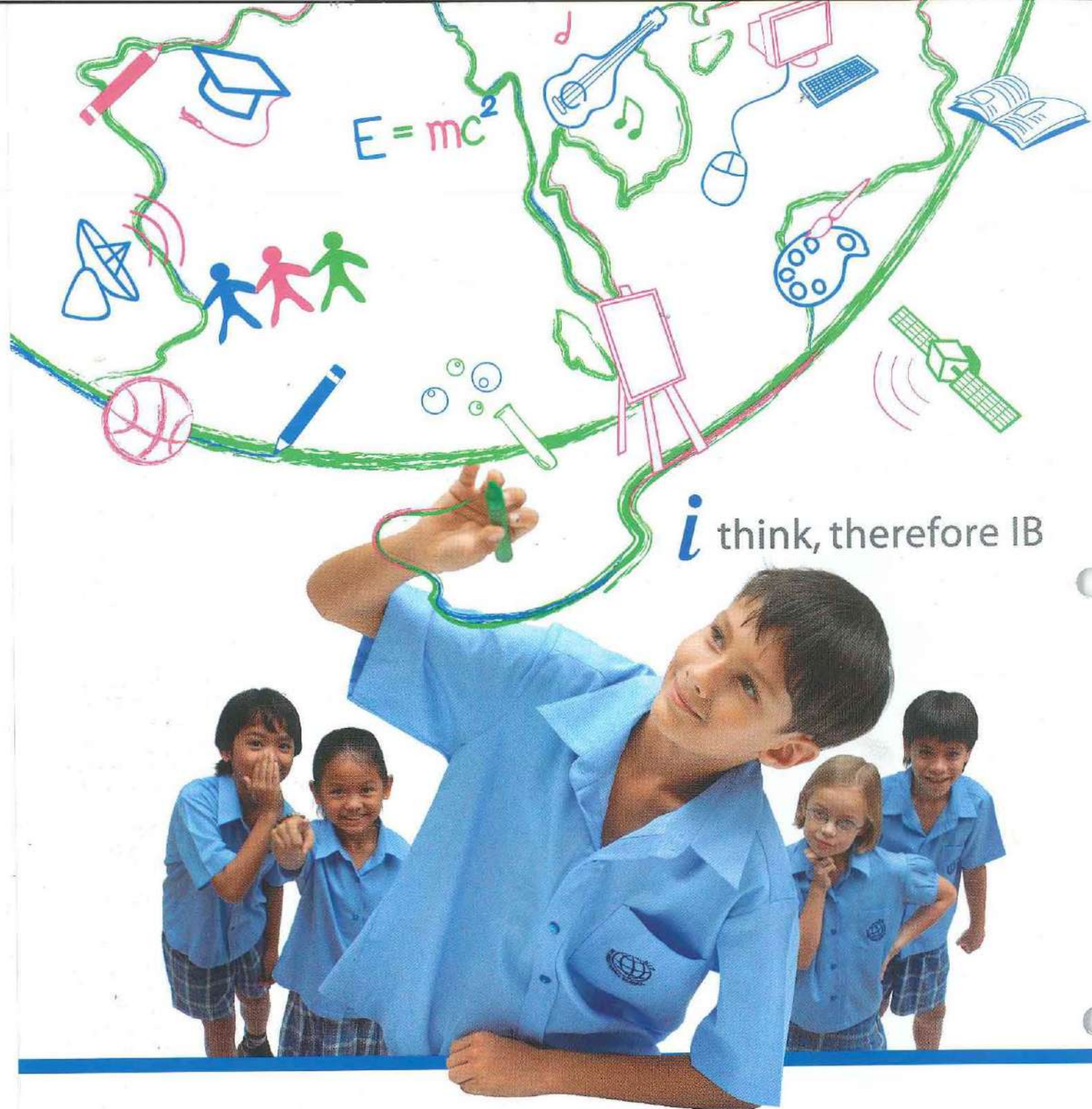


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CONTENTS



It's a bumper "Squashy Bits" this month, featuring the life story of the oldest squash-playing Club member, Themistocles Thomas Annas (Tom) - see pp 32-34.

Pancakes and Passions

This month, we're a little obsessed with pancakes due to the onset of Pancake Day on Shrove Tuesday the 28th, but there's the usual smorgasbord of offerings in this Issue, including a liberal helping of sports as the Sections wind up after the holidays . . .

I was thinking the other day about the enormous and multifarious membership of the British Club and how much wit and experience there must be hidden away among the reticent ranks.

Have you noticed how it is usually the same few people who contribute to Outpost? Would you like some more variety? Well . . . there is a solution . . . CONTRIBUTE!

If you've a pet interest, hobby, a mini-dissertation that is ready to see the light of day, even a brickbat or bouquet . . . let's have it. And given the well known British enthusiasm for vociferous complaints (remember Python's "parrot sketch"?), we'll even consider a small piece on your pet complaint or annoyance, but please, no interminable moaning - and it must be witty.

We'll print everything we can - all contributions will be seriously considered for publication - nothing will be ignored. Remember, in the final analysis, your Outpost magazine is only as good as you make it . . .

Don't think you can write well? I can make you look good - it's my job! I keep telling Barry (which is strictly unnecessary, as he knows anyway): it's the content that matters, the ideas and the spirit of what you write - not the spelling, grammar or some other technical picky parameter.

So, a bit of marketing now. I'm going to put my little appeal in a frame with a colour wash, so members will see it. Even if you don't read anything else on the page, you may read this . . .

THERE IS NO LAW AGAINST ANY MEMBER
CONTRIBUTING ANYTHING HE or SHE JOLLY-WELL
LIKES TO THE OUTPOST MAGAZINE.

Give us your passions! - music, sumo wrestling, termite mounds, whatever!

If it's at all interesting we'll put it in Outpost. Promise!

Of course, I do realise that the response to this entreaty could well be a deafening silence, especially as it's likely not many people read this little patch of text and also because many of the potential writers are very busy people, whose lives are somewhat tumultuous - like those of successful people everywhere, according to the folks at The Standard Club on p 42 . . .

Never mind. We're here. We're waiting. "Bombay" Bill Sapphire is fresh back from another trip to Azerbaijan and is just itching to get his teeth into something.

This could be your *big* chance to get into print. Think about it . . . but not too long.

Here is the email address to write to:
OutpostEditor@VeritasGraphics.com or
(as they say at the BC) contact Khun Barry.

Billy Beefeater

Chairman's Letter

Barry's Banter

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▲ **Cover** - Khun Lak, Head Chef at the British Club, prepares for her debut in the pancake-flippin' cover-shoot. Cover photo by Ed Giunca. Onlookers are Rodney Bain and his son Nicky, and Lucas Kingston-Davies.

OUTPOST MAGAZINE

The contents of this magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, the General Committee or the Club's management. Criticisms and suggestions are welcomed by the Club's publications committee or by Veritas Enterprises.

OUTPOST is produced on behalf of the British Club by Veritas Enterprises. For advertising inquiries contact Jim Fowler (01-844-7015 or Jim@VeritasEnterprises.com); and for editorial matters contact the Editor at OutpostEditor@VeritasGraphics.com

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

The British Club

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Letter from the Chair



Dear Members,

The year started very sadly with news of the tragic and untimely death of Khun Noo, the Club's Chief Engineer, who had been involved in a road accident in December. Khun Noo had been with the Club for 10 years and was an extremely competent and always cheerful employee.

A tribute to Khun Noo can be found on Page 9. I would also just like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Barry, our G.M., who was a tower of strength during this difficult time, visiting the hospital at all hours of the day and night, liaising with hospital staff, as well as supporting and consoling Khun Noo's family, friends and Club staff, who were inevitably devastated by the news. A group of members and staff attended the bathing rites and cremation. The overwhelming turnout was a real tribute to this popular and personable member of staff. He will be sorely missed here at the Club and by all who knew him.

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday, March 28th

Yes, it's that time again. Our Committee year draws to a close and the AGM date has been set for Tuesday, March 28th so please put this in your diaries now. The official calling notice will be sent out in due course. At this time all Ordinary and Country members can vote and elect their new General Committee for the 2006/2007 term. If you are interested in standing for the GC, or would like more information regarding time commitment or responsibilities, please do let me know. In brief, if elected you would need to devote a few evenings a month to meetings at the Club, and should anticipate assuming responsibility for one or more key areas such as Food & Beverage, Finance, Security, Maintenance, Sports Sections, Club Development, Human Resources, Information Technology, etc. The basic ethos is that the General Committee determines policy while Management controls the daily operation of the Club. If you are an Ordinary member and have a bit of time to spare, please do consider contributing some of it for the benefit of the Club and its members.

Club Development Discussion Forum – Monday, February 27th

Another date for your diary! The General Committee is very excited to now be able to share our ideas for Club development with members. To this end, an informal 'discussion forum' will be held in the Suriwongse Room, on February 27th at 7:00 pm. Complimentary canapes will be provided. Please note that this meeting is open to **all** members of the British

Club and everyone is urged to attend and contribute your views and suggestions. More details can be found on Page 15. Following the meeting we hope to be able to fine-tune the plans ready for final presentation and approval at the Annual General Meeting in March. Please do get involved in the future of your Club and give us your views. In order for us to have an idea of numbers, please confirm your attendance to Benjawan.Sirathong@britishclubbangkok.org

Food & Beverage Review

This exercise, admittedly, has taken a bit longer than anticipated. Many thanks to those of you who responded to our F&B Poolside survey; it has helped us to get a much broader understanding of members' satisfaction in this area. The responses are now being collated and analysed and we hope to publish the results in next month's *Outpost*. Based on your comments and suggestions, John and his team will be developing new menus to be implemented later in the month.

Outside Service Providers

One of our objectives this year was to standardise all contracts with those outside professionals providing sports or activity coaching or other services to the British Club such as the tennis knockers, yoga, massage, etc. We believe that the formalising of these various relationships was long overdue and also necessary for legal & taxation purposes. This approach will also enable us to provide our suppliers with more support and co-operation from the Club. All our service providers are now in agreement with the new policy and most of the contracts have been signed. While there will be some changes in the booking system and admin. procedures, we hope that members will appreciate that this exercise is felt to be in the best interests of the Club, its members and those who provide us with outside services.

Honorary Members

Last, but certainly not least, I am delighted to announce that the General Committee have awarded two members with Honorary Member status. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Nigel Overly CBE (O1) and Mr. Dacre Raikes OBE (R1) who have made major contributions both to British interests, as well as to the British Club, during their 50+ years as members. Read about their achievements on Page 15.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Development Discussion Forum on Monday, February 27th.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Daniel
Chairman

BCB General Committee 2005/2006

Natural motion is back

Let's twist again!



Approximately 80 % of people experience significant lower back pain at least once in their lifetime, and for many people, spinal disorders are a lifelong problem.

Causes of chronic lower back pain are varied including muscle strain, disc herniation, lumbar spondylosis, spinal stenosis, osteoporosis and degenerative disc disease.

The most common early symptom of degenerative disc disease is usually pain in the back that spreads to the buttocks and upper thighs. With degenerative disc disease, the main problem lies within one or more of the intervertebral discs. There is a disc between each of the vertebrae in your spine. The discs are designed to absorb pressure and keep the spine flexible by acting as cushions during body movement. They are similar to shock absorbers. Without the cushion effect, the vertebrae in your spine would not be able to absorb stresses, or provide the movement needed to bend and twist.

The treatment of degenerative disc

disease usually begins with conservative treatment, including rest, physical therapy and medications. When conservative therapy fails, surgical treatment may be recommended. To date, ongoing lower back pain from degenerative disc disease has been treated with lumbar spinal fusion surgery. This procedure attempts to permanently lock two or more spinal vertebrae together so they cannot move except as a single unit. However, spinal fusion does alter motion characteristics and mechanics of the spine.

But what about artificial disc replacement?

Artificial disc replacement has been performed in Europe since 1984 and has been used in treating nearly 10,000 patients worldwide. Replacement of the damaged disc with an artificial disc can relieve chronic lower back pain, restore disc height between the vertebrae

and allow the spine to maintain its normal motion, which thereby reducing or eliminating the risk of degeneration in adjacent levels of the disc.

Artificial lumbar disc replacement offers an alternative to lumbar fusion for some patients who have chronic low back pain from degenerative disc disease. While fusion stops pain by eliminating movement in the afflicted disc, artificial disc allow natural motion in the implanted disc.

This article provides only an overview of artificial lumbar disc. Additional details should be reviewed with your spine surgeon so that all your questions and concerns can be addressed.



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The Show must go on...

Dear Members,

It was a sad end of the year for us here at the Club.

Just before New Year our Chief Engineer, Khun Noo, was involved in a crash. Khun Noo passed away on January 5th, aged just 29. I would like to thank all of the members who sent emails to the Club about Khun Noo and thanks also to the members for their support at this difficult time. It was very upsetting for the staff. He was a great lad who loved his job here. Sometimes we would get frustrated if he couldn't get the TV to work but for all our big events, particularly Britstock, Guy Fawkes and the Ball, he really did pull out all the stops. Noo will be very sorely missed by us here at the Club. Instead of having the Staff Party on January 16th, we decided to have a monks' blessing in the Suriwongse Room with a meal afterwards (see p 43). Nobody really felt like partying.

As if all this were not enough, Club Member Barbara Mcleod was killed in tragic circumstances just before Christmas. Then, early in January we also lost long-term member Mr. Des Kennedy...

On a brighter note we have lots of activities planned over the next month. We're off to see the WWE Smackdown at Impact Arena (it's wrestling, you know!) and for a gentler experience, there's the new Cultural Show at Ratchada Grand Theatre. The Show, called "Siam Niramit" is apparently spectacular and not to be missed. February 18th and 19th sees us at the Bangkok 100 Rock Festival with live music from Oasis, Franz Ferdinand and many more; and we have once again booked tickets for the Disney spectacular at Impact Arena - scheduled for Saturday, 25th March.

At the Club we will be celebrating Pancake Day on the 28th of February with pancake specials and - if we can organize it - inter-society pancake races!

For Valentines Day on the 14th we have booked places on the Loy Nava rice barge. Have a look at What's Going On, page 8, for information on events organised by the Club.

Don't forget about the Club's catering services headed by Khun John Hogg. The Club can cater your party at your home, office or here at the Club. Contact Khun Somboon or Khun John for a competitive quote. And for kids' parties don't forget about the Club's own Bouncy Castle - contact Hanni for further details.

The Club's AGM has been set for 7pm on Tuesday 28th March. We will be sending further

details to members shortly. Following the recent EGM and Constitutional amendments, members are reminded to please sign in all guests when visiting the Club. There are now sign-in books situated in the Silom and Suriwongse Salas and at the Clubhouse Reception. If a member is expecting guests but the member is running late, s/he should contact Khun Ben, Hanni or myself and we will inform Security. Please remember also that the Club has had a no-cash policy for over three years so members are responsible for all their guests' expenses. As we have instructed staff not to accept any cash, all visiting Reciprocal Members or Absent Members must pay by credit card. Any problems, please contact me.



This month, we have a show with a difference for members. Well-known Irish performer Rynagh O'Grady will be treading the boards in the Suriwongse Room with her one-woman play "Voices in the Wind". Tickets are 750 baht each, and include a cocktail reception and dinner. Tables are for 8 or on a sharing basis. Please note that all Club events are non-smoking when held inside the Clubhouse.

The new furniture is now here (fanfare of trumpets!) and we have managed to get rid of the old furniture in the salas. I hope members like our upgrade. John Hogg is busy at the moment creating new menus for the Club's outlets... I'm sure there will be plenty of new dishes to whet your appetites, so keep your eyes peeled!

We have added another Club to our list of reciprocal clubs. The new one, in Chicago, is called The Standard Club but it's far from ordinary - see page 42 of this issue. We now have over 150 reciprocal clubs. Members who wish to take advantage of the reciprocal clubs can contact Khun Aeh or Kookie in the Membership Department for further details.

Well, that's about it for another month. I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work over the last few months and also the members for their support.

I look forward to seeing you around the Club soon.

Regards,

Barry Osborne
General Manager

Special Events at the Club this month

** WWE SMACKDOWN LIVE TOUR

Thursday, 2nd February - Leave BC at 5:30pm.

Enjoy the World's greatest wrestling live at the Impact Arena Muang Thongthani. Wrestling's greatest superstars, including world heavyweight Champion "Batista", JBL, Chris Benoit, the Undertaker and many more, will all be performing at this fantastic sporting event. Coaches leave from the Club at 5.30pm, doors open at 6pm, wrestling begins at 7.30pm. Tickets to this event cost 2950 baht (cheap 'n' cheerful seat) or 4450 baht (close to ringside) per person and include transportation from/to the Club.

** SIAM NIRAMIT THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Saturday, 4th February - Leave BC at 6pm

"Travel back through time into the history and culture of the Kingdom of Siam". This world-class performance is a journey to the enchanted kingdom of Siam and is performed on a 65-meter panoramic stage with a cast of 120 actors. The scenery and costumes are said to be spectacular and the show has received excellent reviews - apparently not one to be missed. The evening costs a total of 1,950 baht including a delicious Thai buffet during the show. The transport leaves for the Ratchada Grand Theatre at 6pm and the show begins at 8pm.

** VDO NIGHT

Thursday, 9th February, 7pm, Wordsworth Lounge

Join us for our second Morse Video Night on the big screen in the Wordsworth Lounge. This month's episode is "The Silent World Of Nicholas Quinn" which is the second episode from the very first season of this Classic British TV series. Once again the evening is free of charge but we ask members to book in advance to help us with the seating arrangements. A full F&B menu will be available from 7pm.

** VALENTINE DINNER CRUISE

Tuesday, 14th February - Meet at BC 7.45pm

Join us aboard the Teak rice barge Loy Nava and celebrate Valentines with your loved one with a dinner cruise along the romantic Chao Praya River.

The cost of this special dinner cruise is Bt 3000 per person, which includes a superb 10 course Thai traditional and Thai seafood dinner, a glass of Champagne or Kir Royale per person, a half bottle of wine per person, a rose for the ladies, a special Valentines dessert and a glass of sweet dessert wine.

Transportation from/to the British Club is also included. We meet here at the Club at 7.45pm and leave for the Pier at 8pm. Seats are limited, so book early by sending a fax or email to the Club - or sign up at the main Reception.

** SOLO THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Friday, 17th February, 6:30pm, Suriwongse Room

Well-known Irish performer Rynagh O'Grady will perform her one-woman play "Voices in the Wind", which gives a voice to three contemporary Irish women. (See January Issue of Outpost for details.) Tickets are 750 baht each, and include a cocktail reception and dinner. Tables are for 8 or on a sharing basis.

To book send a fax or email to the Club or sign up at the main Reception - for further information please contact Khun Benjawan or Barry Osborne.

** BANGKOK 100 ROCK FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday, 18th & 19th February - Leave BC at 2pm

Join us for two days of live music at the Lakeside Muang Thongthani. Day one: bands feature Oasis, Franz Ferdinand, Ian Brown, Deus, and local bands Modern Dog and Ebola. Day two: bands feature Stereophonics, Placebo, and local bands Bodyslam and Big Ass. This is an outdoor all-standing event. Please indicate when booking, which date you wish to book, or if you wish to book both days. Transport leaves from the Club daily at 2pm, the venue opens at 3pm and the concerts begin at 4.30pm. The cost is 3,450 baht per person for a one-day pass or 5,450 baht per person for a two-day pass.

** QUIZ NIGHT

Tuesday, 21st February, 7pm, Suriwongse Room

Join host Rodney Bain for our BC Bar Quiz. There's much hilarity and spot prizes to be won as well as bottles of wine for the place-getters, and a Round of Drinks for the last placed team. This year the three spot prizes are sponsored by Crown Relocations. The Quiz runs over four rounds of 19 questions each, with the ever-popular "Common Denominator". Cost is 100 baht per person, with teams of 4 to 6 persons. To book please contact Khun Ben or Reception.

** VDO NIGHT

Thursday, 23rd February, 7pm, Suriwongse Room

This month's British Comedy Classic is the new BBC TV hit series "Little Britain" created by David Walliams and Matt Lucas. You've never seen anything like this before - contemporary British comedy at its best! We will be showing episodes one and two from series one. There is no charge for this event but we ask members to book in advance to assist us with the seating arrangements. A full F&B menu will be available from 7pm.

** 50 CENT AND FORT MINOR LIVE IN BANGKOK

Sunday, 26th February - Leave BC at 3pm

We have booked a limited number of tickets to this event, held at the 'Active Square' Muang Thongthani on Sunday 26th February. This is an all-standing outdoor event, the venue opens at 4pm and the show begins at 6pm. The cost of this event is 2,950 baht per person and includes transportation from/to the Club.

** DISCUSSION FORUM ON CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Monday, 27th February, 7pm, Suriwongse Room

The General Committee invites all members to attend this discussion forum so that members' views may be heard on proposals for future Club development to be presented at the forum. If the plan is well supported, and after any necessary fine-tuning, the GC will seek approval from the members at the March AGM to proceed with Phase One of the Development.

A bar will be available as well as complimentary canapes. Please confirm your attendance to Khun Benjawan by telephone - or email to Benjawan.Sirathong@britishclubbangkok.org

** SHROVE TUESDAY - PANCAKE DAY!

Tuesday, 28th February, 6pm, back lawn

The Club, along with the assistance of all the Loyal Societies, will host a special family evening on the back lawn. There will be traditional pancake races and tugs-of-war with all the Loyal Societies competing, plus the bouncy castle, special eats, arts and crafts, fairground type games, food and beverage stalls for you all to fill up on, music and dancing...

100 baht per adult and 50 baht for kids.



A TRIBUTE TO KHUN NOO

The beginning of the year was a sad and tragic one for all the staff here at the Club. On Thursday 29th December 2005 Pantiroop Onkum, better known as Khun Noo, was knocked over by a car on his way home from the Club. Khun Noo died from head injuries sustained in the accident on Thursday 5th January 2006 at 3.00 pm.

Khun Noo was an outstanding young man. He worked at the British Club for ten years and was both admired and loved by members and staff alike. In the ten years I worked with Noo, I never once saw him lose his temper, even when we were at our most busy. I know that Khun Noo loved working here at the Club. There were many occasions when he was here until 2.00 or 3.00 am, preparing decorations for functions and showing true dedication to members and to the Club.

During the Christmas Ball, or any large function at the Club, I knew I would always find Noo on the balcony looking over the whole event, feeling proud of what he had accomplished. The biggest event he worked on recently was the BNH bed push, where he was truly inspirational and as hard working as always.

Not only was Noo extremely conscientious about his work, he also truly cared about other people and their feelings. He had a great sense of humour and would always make us laugh.

At the moment, whenever we think of Noo we are sad, but what we must try to remember are the good times, his cheerful face and that he was a ray of light in our lives.

We all miss you Noo, your jokey ways and your silly laugh, and all realise how lucky we were to have known you.

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Mission Hospital



Shrove Tuesday is . . . **Pancake Day!**

28 February 2006

A pancake feast.

Modern Pancake Day has its roots in the religious observance of Shrove Tuesday. The day always falls 47 days before the moveable feast of Easter Sunday, and so varies anywhere between February 3 and March 9.



Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shiving, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the season of Lent began.

Lent was a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to use up the foods that weren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes were ideal for this purpose because they contained fat, milk, butter and eggs - things forbidden during Lent and which would otherwise spoil during this period.

Therein lies the origins of the curious dual nature of Shrove Tuesday - on one hand it was a great opportunity to be penitent and confess - no more wallowing around in guilt and pain caused by a build-up of past sins. But on the other hand one could also make merry and pig-out on all sorts of soon-to-be-forbidden foods on the basis that one was adhering to Church doctrine and preparing for the fast of Lent.

Shrove Tuesday - as a time to eat and be merry - has become popular all over the world. In many solidly Roman Catholic countries it is the last day of Carnival. In some historically Francophone places it is Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday"; although the most famous of these, the New Orleans Mardi Gras, is probably on hold this year . . .

Apart from mob-football in the streets - and cock-stoning (which has mercifully died out) - the most traditional Shrove Tuesday activity is the pancake-race, which dates back to 1445. Pancake racing remains popular today throughout the British Isles and in many European Countries.

The most famous race takes place at Olney in Buckinghamshire. According to tradition, in 1445 a woman of Olney heard the shiving bell while she was making pancakes and ran to the church in her apron, still clutching her frying pan. The Olney pancake race is now world famous. Competitors have to be local housewives and they must wear an apron and a hat or scarf. Each contestant has a frying pan containing a hot, cooking pancake. She must toss it three times during the race that starts at the market square at 11.55 am. The first woman to complete the winding 375-metre course and arrive at the church, serve her pancake to the bell ringer, and be kissed by him, is the winner. The record is 63 seconds set in 1967 (quite a respectable time even without a frying pan!).

While it's unlikely there'll be much shiving going on at the Club, there will be plenty of pancakes to be had on the 28th, along with some traditional pancake races on the back lawn - See John's page for details.

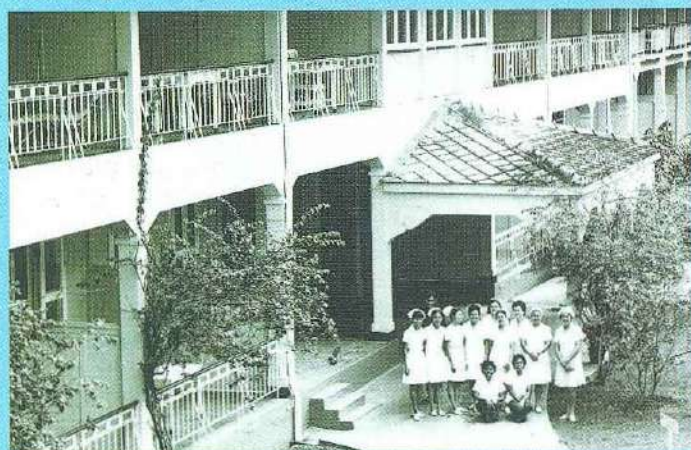


Cookie loves pancakes, but first . . . the strawberry!

Trivia note: the term "shrive" survives today in the expression "short shrift" or giving little attention to anyone's explanations or excuses.



The original Bangkok Nursing Home hospital on Convent Road



In the old days . . .



The new BNH Hospital complex



In-patient facilities



BNH's stylish new out-patient clinic which opened in June 2005



The British Club at the BNH Hospital's "Bed Push 2005"



Ambulances at the ready. BNH provides medical backup at major British Club events.



A long and close relationship

Most British Club members will be familiar with BNH Hospital on Convent Road. It is one of the popular and respected international hospitals in Bangkok. New arrivals may not however be aware of its long history and close association with the British community and the British Club. Both establishments have been around for over 100 years - opening around the same time as other well-known western influenced landmarks in Bangkok - the Neilson Hays Library, Hualampong railway station and the Oriental Hotel.

Until 2001 BNH Hospital was known as the Bangkok Nursing Home. It was at this time that the company was taken over by the Bangkok Hospital network, which also includes the Samitivej Hospitals. Although still on Convent Road it is not now in the original colonial style buildings - these were vacated in 1996 when the owners at the time saw an increasing demand for private hospital services and invested in a new, seven storey medical complex. The timing of the change was however unfortunate. The economic recession in 1997 did not bring the forecast numbers of new patients and the hospital, battling against repayment of inflated loans, went into a steady financial decline until the Bangkok Hospital takeover turned its fate around and ensured its continued existence.

The new owners have made a significant investment to improve the facilities and have worked hard to attract many famous and highly respected doctors to join the BNH Hospital team. As well as gaining popularity amongst the local Thai community, BNH has focused on rebuilding its relationship and raising its profile amongst the international community and is always supportive of community activities. It initiated its own community event in 2004 - the Bed Push parade - which raised money for the Thai Red Cross AIDS charities and has since become a popular annual event eagerly awaited by the Expat community. The combination of improved services and facilities, and an increased presence in the community, have resulted in a significant increase in the number of patients using BNH Hospital over the last two years.

The British Club has seen a closer relationship develop over recent years too and appreciates the support given to the Club at sporting activities and children's events, such as the Tennis Tournament, the Bonfire Night party and the Children's Christmas Party, when the BNH Hospital sends an ambulance and medical team to be on stand-by. The British Club and BNH Hospital look forward to continuing their close relationship over the next one hundred years.



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Bangkok Community Theatre breathes life into *Dracula Undead* in February 2006!



All photos by Angelo Sironi

Eight brave British Club members are about to embark on a terrifying journey - and we don't mean the BC's annual outing to the Surin Elephant Roundup! These fearless souls are all involved, either on stage or working behind the scenes, in Bangkok Community Theatre's latest production *DRACULA UNDEAD*. Wah Whisenand, a British Club member normally seen demonstrating Scottish Dances at The St. Andrew's Ball, is designing the period costumes and has been busy sketching everything from Victorian formal dresses to gentlemen's frockcoats and Byzantine style nightgowns for the ladies of the night - Vampire ladies, that is! Belinda Skinner, a newcomer to Bangkok and to the British Club, had hardly unpacked when she agreed to take on the role of Stage Manager. Her introduction to Bangkok may literally be a baptism of fire, but she's delighted to be involved in the show, which she thinks will be "an amazing experience for the cast and audience alike."

Written and directed by Dale Gutzman, *DRACULA UNDEAD* is an attempt to break the traditional rules of live theatre. It is a combination of ritual, multi-media, dance, music, theatre and audience interaction. It tells the Dracula legend in a new and exciting way, never before attempted on stage. Gypsies (who include BC members Bonnie Zellerbach, Kathy Clegg, Veronica Berman, and Katy Grubb) wander the audience and recount the vampire myths and legends for the audience. Mina (played by BC Member Elise Melisea) betrothed to Jonathan Harker, tastes the power of Dracula and feels an uncontrollable erotic attraction to the Darkside. Characters spring out of the audience and Renfield, the madman who eats mice and spiders, escapes into the auditorium. Lucy,

turned into one of the undead by Dracula, wanders the theatre looking for young flesh to consume. Are the Good strong enough to battle the Evil? Can Dracula be kept out of our hearts and minds? Will these British Club members ever be the same again??

With this BCT production, Dale Gutzman, director of the 2002/3 productions of *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR* and *JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT*, promises to take you to places never before experienced in a Bangkok theatre.

This production is performed in English and is recommended for Adults and Students aged 16 and older.

Bangkok Community Theatre (BCT) and Dale Gutzman will stage the live, multi-media spectacular DRACULA UNDEAD at the BangkokTheatre@Metropolis on Rajdamri Road across from Central World Plaza (formerly WTC) on February 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2006. Tickets at B700 for adults and B450 for students are available at Kinokuniya Books, 3rd Floor of the Emporium.

For more information, please visit the BCT website at www.bct-th.org or call 06-787-5121.



PLANS FOR CLUB DEVELOPMENT

The General Committee invites all members to a
DISCUSSION FORUM
to present Plans for Club Development
Monday, February 27th at 7:00 pm in the Suriwongse Room

A bar will be available as well as complimentary canapes!

All members are invited to attend a discussion forum, on Monday February 27th, where plans for future Club development will be presented. At this forum the GC would like to get members' views on the proposals. Then, following some anticipated fine-tuning, if the plan is well supported, the GC will seek approval from the members at the March AGM to proceed with Phase One of the Development.

With an increase in available cash reserves and a consistent number of new members recruited each year, the Club is now in a good position to start upgrading and providing new facilities. The plan is that the new and upgraded and/or converted facilities should increase the capacity of the Club at peak times and attract members at less busy times. While we believe that in order to maximise use of the available space the plan needs to be integrated across the entire site, it is specifically designed to be modular, and taken a step at a time. Within each module there are options for members to consider. However, if supported by the membership, we believe that a long-term commitment to the plan is key in order to ensure continuity from one General Committee to the next.

As previously stated, initial feedback from the membership indicated that the following issues were of importance:

1) The environment in which the Club is located is unique in the amount of green space it includes - our downtown 'oasis'. We must preserve this.

2) The Clubhouse is an impressive historical building that is currently underused.

3) The Club probably provides one of the best family environments in Bangkok. However the family orientated facilities provided are not sufficient.

4) The Poolside and the Clubhouse are separated by a traffic thoroughfare that effectively cuts the site in half; children's safety is therefore an issue.

5) There is interest in providing Food & Beverage options that cover combinations of the following:

- Internal/External
- Child Friendly/Adult Friendly/Sports Friendly
- Formal/Informal
- Smoking/Non-smoking

6) There is significant pressure on our existing sporting facilities and there are sports sections that we do not cater to at all.

7) The back office, kitchens and storage facilities are insufficient and in need of upgrading.

8) Security and access to the Club need to be optimised.

As such these have been primary considerations in preparing the plans.

We look forward to seeing you on **Monday, 27th February** and hearing your views!

**PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE TO
KHUN BENJAWAN**
by telephone or email:
Benjawan.Sirathong@britishclubbangkok.org

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY MEMBERS

The General Committee is delighted to award Honorary Memberships to two members who, in the opinion of the General Committee, have rendered valuable services to British interests and The British Club over a period of many years. This decision was also well supported by members who sent in nominations.

Nigel Overy CBE (01)

Nigel Overy arrived in Thailand in the early 50's and became Managing Director of the Anglo-Thai Company (later to become part of the Inchcape Group) one of the oldest British companies in Thailand. He was closely involved in the development of the British Chamber of Commerce and was Chairman in 1972 and 1973 and then again in 1979. He also was 2nd Vice President of the Thailand Board of Trade in 1973 and 1974. In 1975 he became Vice Chairman of the British Club and then became Chairman from 1976 to 1978. He was also on the Board of the British International School, Bangkok Patana. In 1979 he was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for working to promote British interests within the Thai Community. In Thailand he was awarded the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant, 4th Class, in 1986. Nigel is probably most well known for his work with the Bangkok Nursing Home, which he helped to establish, and was Chairman of the Association for around 18 years. He was instrumental in the Nursing Home's move from its old home to the new and he still serves on the Committee. Nigel has been a British Club member for 53 years.



Dacre Raikes OBE (R1)

Dacre was Managing Director of The Borneo Company (also to become part of Inchcape) the oldest foreign company in Thailand, and started his career working in the Teak forests of Northern Thailand in 1947. He was Hon. Sec. and then Chairman, of the Timber Exporters Association of Thailand from 1956-58 and V.P. on the Thailand Board of Trade from 1971-73. Dacre served on the British Club General Committee in the 1960's and played an instrumental part in the building of the Club's swimming pool. He was also Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce Committee from 1967 to 1969. Dacre has been closely involved in The Siam Society and in the promotion of Thai culture and dance both here and in the UK. He was decorated with the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand (5th Class) and received an Honorary Doctorate from Silpakorn University. He was also awarded an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in January 1984 for his work with the British Community in Thailand. Dacre celebrated his eightieth birthday about a month ago. He has been a British Club member for 51 years and is currently completing a book on his life in Thailand.



REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS Wordsworth Lounge

9:00am-12:00noon

TUESDAYS Churchill Bar

5:30-9:00pm

7:00pm-late

WEDNESDAYS Churchill Bar

Lunch & Dinner

(Noon-2:00pm & 5:30-9:00pm)

7:00pm and 8:00pm

7:30pm

THURSDAYS Churchill Bar

6:00-9:00pm

FRIDAYS Churchill Bar

Lunch & Dinner

(Noon-2:00pm & 5:30-9:00pm)

Silom Sala

7:00pm and 9:00pm

SUNDAYS Lord's Restaurant

Noon-3:00pm

Silom Room

1:30-3:30pm

BWG Mahjong

Friendly Bridge

Spoofing

CARVERY BUFFET Bt 230. Choose from 3 roast joints, 3 potato styles, 3 veggies. Also with fresh salad (Bt 270).

PERNOD RICARD ACCUMULATOR

Any member could win from Bt 5,000 to Bt 25,000 - prize increases each week.

CHIVAS REGAL BOTTLE DRAW - somebody present in the Bar will win a bottle of whisky, tequila, vodka or gin.

Chess

THEME BUFFET - **3rd February:** Indian Curry Buffet - with specialty Indian dishes and music; 230 baht per person.

10th February: Soup and Salad Buffet - with three hearty soups, fresh baked breads, large fresh salad bar with cold cuts; All you can eat at 230 baht.

17th February: Mediterranean Buffet - with delicious classical dishes including risottos, polenta, Spanish tortilla, paella and pizza; priced at only 230 baht includes a free glass of Italian wine . . .

24th February: Middle Eastern Buffet - with an abundance of dishes from the Middle East, from humus and falafel to special marinated and grilled lamb with Arabic rice. Buffet priced at 230 baht.

Kids' VDO It's free. Includes free Nestle Sundaes for the kids.

FAMILY CARVERY - Choose from 2 soups, cold cuts, 3 roasts carvery, with potatoes and veggies, hot dishes, children's buffet, fresh salad bar and a range of desserts.

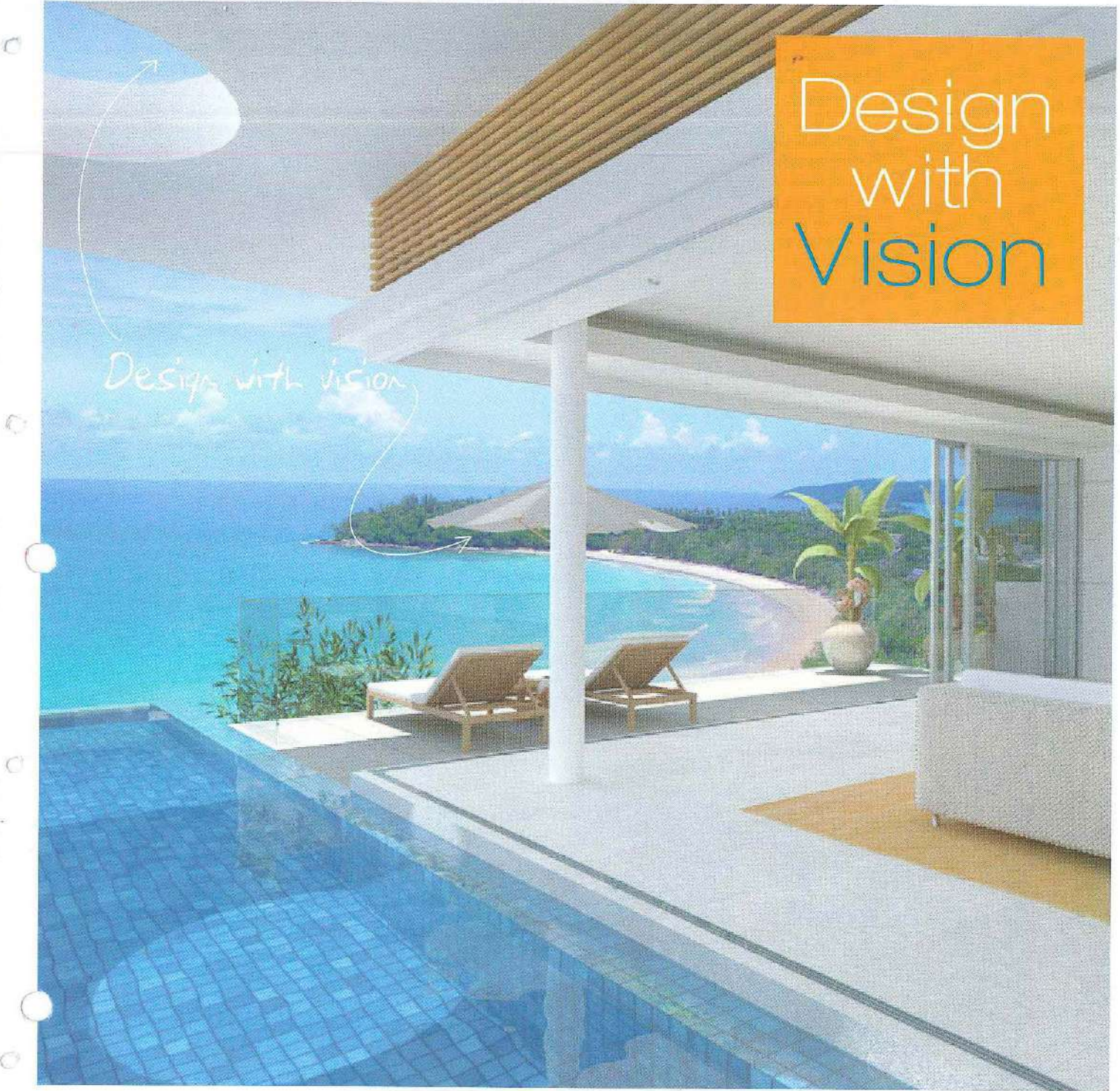
Adults Bt 330 and children Bt 180 (includes soft drink)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES. Games, videos, crafts, soft drinks and snacks with Khun Suzie. Cost: FREE

Official Opening Times

10:00am - 11:00pm
11:30am - 2:00pm
6:00pm - 10:00pm
7:30am - 10:00pm
6:00am - 10:00pm
6:00am - 9:00pm
9:00am - 6:00pm

Churchill Bar
Lord's Restaurant (Lunch)
Lord's Restaurant (Dinner)
Poolside Bar (last food orders - 9:30pm)
Fitness Centre (Mon-Fri)
Fitness Centre (weekends)
Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)



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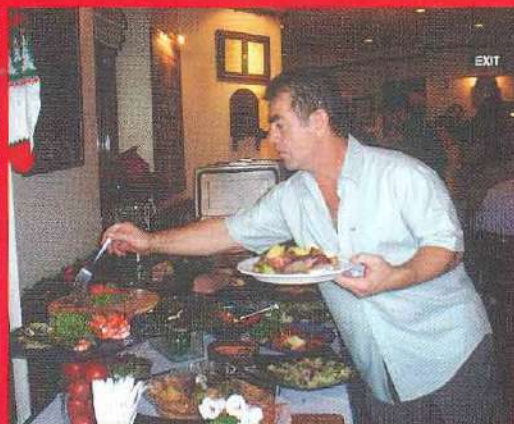
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Christmas Day - December 25th 2005





It was a very merry Christmas this year at the Club. Families and friends joined together to enjoy the fabulous feast of Christmas festive goodies. The Club's buffets looked and tasted excellent and both the Lord's Restaurant and the Churchill Bar were filled to capacity with the Bar over-spilling onto the back lawn.

There were lots of activities to keep the children amused, what with the walk-around magician, pony rides, Suzie's activities and stocking fillers, and the BC bouncy castle.

Our favourite GM donned the Santa suit once again and handed out gifts to all the kids, as well as a can of John Smiths for the dads and poinsettia plants for the mums.

The kitchens were extremely busy - a total of 65 turkeys were cooked for Christmas Day alone, quite apart from all the Christmas food orders being picked up to take home, the various outside catering functions, and the organised chaos of the Club's buffets for both lunch and dinner. We also managed to cook over 3500 sweet mincemeat pies, all from our bakery kitchen over the festive period, so I hope you all enjoyed them.

We are already getting organised for next Christmas, which I am sure will be just as successful and just as chaotic.

John Hogg



The Spoofers Reign Supreme



The year got off to a good start with the first Quiz night of 2006 held at the Club's Churchill Bar on January 17th.

Thanks to all the teams who joined in and a 'well done boys' to The Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers who romped home with first place. Will we ever find a team who can knock these guys off their perch?

Well done, too, for the gallant efforts of Sminky Minky Bang Bang, Six No Trumps and the Underpar teams.

Crown Relocations are now sponsoring the bottles of wine for the spot prizes, which always go down well.

If anybody wants to join a team or start a team to challenge the Spoofers please leave your details at Reception or contact the management to get signed up. We are aiming for eight teams at the Quiz next month, Tuesday the 21st February, so start getting your teams together now.

LOOKING BACK



Welcoming 2006 in style!!!

Hanni was there . . .

The British Club offered a first class package for our New Year's Eve members at the end of 2005. A magical evening was had by all and this year, two separate cruises were offered to members. Option one was the Chao Phraya Princess 1 (aka "the disco boat") and option two was the Wan Fah Rice Barge (aka "the sit-down dinner").

Members boarded their boats at 9.00 pm, on River City pier 1 (or was that 2?!) and we set sail at 9.30 pm, waving each other off as we went!

The Chao Phraya crew enjoyed a delicious international and Thai food buffet, with plenty to go around and then the disco and dancing began. In the meantime, the Wan Fah crew were dining in elegant style, absorbing the Bangkok sights of the river at their most beautiful. All went swimmingly, and the boats met again under the Rama 9 bridge, awaiting the much anticipated firework display.

Barry and myself got ready for the countdown, the fireworks started and, as midnight struck, I had the shock of my life when my sister's boyfriend proposed to her under the stars! How romantic! Definitely tears all around. Congratulations Zena and Nathan - and Nathan . . . good luck!

So the boats parted once again and we all docked back at the pier at around 1.00am. All the members had a great time and we certainly did it in style!

Here's to the next cruise, cheers!



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BC CALENDAR FEBRUARY – The Month at a Glance

Sunday

5

10:30am-2:15pm
Squash Mix-in

Churchill Bar
All day from 10:00am
a La Carte Breakfast

Lord's Restaurant
12noon-3:00pm
Family Carvery

Silom Room
1:00-3:30pm
Children's Activities

Wordsworth Room
3:00-4:00pm Yoga

3:00-6:00pm
Cricket Practice

12

Churchill Bar
All day from 10:00am
a La Carte Breakfast

Lord's Restaurant
12noon-3:00pm
Family Carvery

Silom Room
1:00-3:30pm
Children's Activities

Monday

6

9:00am-12noon
BWG Mahjong

6:00-10:00pm
Tennis Match Play

13

9:00am-12noon
BWG Mahjong

Tuesday

7

8:00-11:00am
Tennis Ladies Mix-In

7:00-9:00pm
Football Practice

Churchill Bar
5:30-9:00pm
Friendly Bridge

7:00pm-late
Spoofing

14

8:00-11:00am
Tennis Ladies Mix-In

7:00-9:00pm
Football Practice



Wednesday

1

6:00-10:00pm
Tennis Mix-in

Cricket Practice
6:00-8:30pm

Churchill Bar
Lunch & Dinner
Carvery Buffet
7:00 & 8:00pm
**PERNOD RICARD
ACCUMULATOR**
7:30 pm Chivas Regal
Bottle Draw

8

6:00-10:00pm
Tennis Mix-in

Cricket Practice
6:00-8:30pm

Churchill Bar
Lunch & Dinner
Carvery Buffet
7:00 & 8:00pm
**PERNOD RICARD
ACCUMULATOR**
7:30 pm Chivas Regal
Bottle Draw

15

6:00-10:00pm
Tennis Mix-in

Cricket Practice
6:00-8:30pm

Thursday

2

8:00-11:00am
Tennis Ladies Mix-in

10:30-11:30am
Aqua Aerobics

5:15-9:00pm
Squash Mix-in

7:00-9:00pm
Rugby Practice

9:00-11:00pm
Hockey Practice

Churchill Bar
6:00-9:00pm Chess
WWE SMACKDOWN
Leave BC at 5:30pm

9

8:00-11:00am
Tennis Ladies Mix-in

10:30-11:30am
Aqua Aerobics

5:15-9:00pm
Squash Mix-in

7:00-9:00pm
Rugby Practice

9:00-11:00pm
Hockey Practice

Churchill Bar
6:00-9:00pm Chess

Wordsworth Lounge
7:00pm **VDO NIGHT**
Inspector Morse

16

8:00-11:00am
Tennis Ladies Mix-In

10:30-11:30am
Aqua Aerobics

5:15-9:00pm
Squash Mix-in

7:00-9:00pm
Rugby Practice

Friday

3

6:00-10:00pm
Tennis Mix-in

Churchill Bar
Lunch & Dinner
INDIAN CURRY Buffet

Silom Sala
7:00-9:00pm
Kids' VDO

10

6:00-10:00pm
Tennis Mix-in

Churchill Bar
Lunch & Dinner
**SOUP and SALAD
Buffet**

Silom Sala
7:00-9:00pm
Kids' VDO

17

6:00-10:00pm
Tennis Mix-In

Churchill Bar
Lunch & Dinner
**MEDITERRANEAN
Buffet**

Saturday

4

Front/back lawn
9:00-11:15am
SOCATOTS!

9:00am-1:30pm
Junior Swimming
Classes

9:30am-12noon
Cricket Practice



Churchill Bar
All day from 10:00am
a La Carte Breakfast

**SIAM NIRAMIT
THEATRE
PERFORMANCE**
Leave BC at
6:00pm



11

Front/back lawn
9:00-11:15am
SOCATOTS!

9:00am-1:30pm
Junior Swimming
Classes

9:30am-12noon
Cricket Practice

Churchill Bar
All day from 10:00am
a La Carte Breakfast



18

Front/back lawn
9:00-11:15am
SOCATOTS!

9:00am-1:30pm
Junior Swimming
Classes

9:30am-12noon
Cricket Practice



<p>Wordsworth Room 3:00-4:00pm Yoga</p> <p>3:00-6:00pm Cricket Practice</p>	<p>19 Churchill Bar All day from 10:00am a La Carte Breakfast</p> <p>Lord's Restaurant 12noon-3:00pm Family Carvery</p> <p>Silom Room 1:00-3:30pm Children's Activities</p>	<p>Wordsworth Room 3:00-4:00pm Yoga</p> <p>3:00-6:00pm Cricket Practice</p> <p>BANGKOK 100 ROCK FESTIVAL Leave BC at 2:00pm</p>	<p>26 Churchill Bar All day from 10:00am a La Carte Breakfast</p> <p>Lord's Restaurant 12noon-3:00pm Family Carvery</p> <p>Silom Room 1:00-3:30pm Children's Activities</p> <p>Wordsworth Room 3:00-4:00pm Yoga</p> <p>3:00-6:00pm Cricket Practice</p> <p>50 CENT & FORT MINOR Live in Bangkok Leave BC at 3:00pm</p>
<p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play</p>	<p>20 9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong</p>	<p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play</p>	<p>27 9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play</p> <p>Suriwongse Room 7:00pm DISCUSSION FORUM on Club Development</p>
<p>Churchill Bar 3:30-9:00pm Friendly Bridge</p> <p>7:00pm-late Spoofing</p> <p>VALENTINES CRUISE Meet at BC 7:45pm</p>	<p>21 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm Football Practice</p>	<p>Churchill Bar 5:30-9:00pm Friendly Bridge</p> <p>7:00pm BAR QUIZ NIGHT</p> <p></p>	<p>28 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In</p> <p>5:30-9:00pm Friendly Bridge</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm Football Practice</p> <p></p> <p>Back Lawn 7:00pm SHROVE TUESDAY - PANCAKE DAY</p>
<p>Churchill Bar Lunch & Dinner Carvery Buffet</p> <p>7:00 & 8:00pm PERNOD RICARD ACCUMULATOR 7:30 pm Chivas Regal Bottle Draw</p>	<p>22 6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in</p> <p>Cricket Practice 6:00-8:30pm</p>	<p>Churchill Bar Lunch & Dinner Carvery Buffet</p> <p>7:00 & 8:00pm PERNOD RICARD ACCUMULATOR 7:30 pm Chivas Regal Bottle Draw</p>	
<p>9:00-11:00pm Hockey Practice</p> <p>Churchill Bar 6:00-9:00pm Chess</p>	<p>23 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-in</p> <p>10:30-11:30am Aqua Aerobics</p> <p>5:15-9:00pm Squash Mix-in</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm Rugby Practice</p>	<p>9:00-11:00pm Hockey Practice</p> <p>Churchill Bar 6:00-9:00pm Chess</p> <p>Suriwongse Room 7:00pm VDO NIGHT Little Britain</p>	
<p>Silom Sala 7.00-9.00pm Kid's VDO</p> <p>Suriwongse Room 6:30pm Rynagh O'Grady SOLO THEATRE</p>	<p>24 6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in</p>	<p>Churchill Bar Lunch & Dinner MIDDLE EASTERN Buffet</p> <p>Silom Sala 7.00-9.00pm Kids' VDO</p>	
<p>Churchill Bar All day from 10:00am a La Carte Breakfast</p> <p>BANGKOK 100 ROCK FESTIVAL Leave BC at 2:00pm</p>	<p>25 Front/back lawn 9:00-11:15am SOCATOTS!</p> <p>9:00am-1:30pm Junior Swimming Classes</p> <p>9:30am-12noon Cricket Practice</p> <p></p>	<p>Churchill Bar All day from 10:00am a La Carte Breakfast</p>	

By John

“If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will take another flight
If Candlemas Day be cloud and rain
Winter is gone and will not come again”

Anon . . .

(Candlemas Day is February 2nd)



Dear Members,

What's on in February:

Lord's Restaurant:

Sunday at the Lord's is a lunch buffet with starters, soups and desserts alongside the three roasts carvery, with potatoes and veggies, hot dishes and kid's food and fresh salad bar. Priced at 330 baht for adults and 180 baht for kids with free soft drink.

Churchill Bar:

The Wednesday Carvery, Lunch and Dinner; with three roasts, potatoes and veggies at 230 baht and with fresh salad bar at 270 baht is the perfect complement to the Wednesday accumulator in the evening, now sponsored by Pernod Ricard.

FRIDAY BUFFET AT THE CHURCHILL BAR IN FEBRUARY

Friday 3rd February: Indian Curry Buffet - Lunch and Dinner - with specialty Indian dishes and music. 230 baht per person.

Friday 10th February: Soup and Salad Buffet - Lunch and Dinner - with three Hearty Soups to choose from, fresh baked breads and a large fresh salad bar with cold cuts. All you can eat at 230 baht.

Friday 17th February: Mediterranean Buffet - Lunch and Dinner - with delicious classical dishes from risottos, polenta, Spanish tortilla, Paella and Pizza to name but a few. Buffet priced at only 230 baht includes a free glass of Italian wine . . .

Friday 24th February: Middle Eastern Buffet - Lunch and Dinner - with an abundance of dishes from the Middle East, from Humus and Falafel to special marinated and grilled Lamb with Arabic rice. Buffet priced at 230 baht.

Thankyou . . .

A great night was had by all who joined in the fun and merriment at this year's Burns supper

held on the 28th January. A big thank you to Bangkok St. Andrew's Society who organised a fitting remembrance to the famous Scottish Laird - see pics in next issue.

Special Event

Shrove / Pancake Tuesday

On Tuesday 28th of February, the Club along with the assistance of all the Loyal Societies, will host a special family evening on the back lawn, starting at 6pm. There will be traditional pancake races and tugs-of-war with all the Loyal Societies competing, plus the bouncy castle, special eats, arts and crafts, fairground type games, food and beverage stalls for you all to fill up on, music and dancing.

100 baht per adult and 50 baht for kids.



Specials of the month:

Salmon is a round fish weighing from 4.5 kg to 13.5 kg. It is caught in British rivers from February to August. Salmon is at its best when the head and tail are small and the neck is thick. It should be stiff, red in the gills and covered with bright silvery scales. The flesh should be of a bright red colour.



Salmon and Prawn Crepes, coated in a light cheese sauce and gratinated . . .

(Price: 110 baht)



Salmon and Chive Quiche, with crisp seasonal salad and fresh asparagus spears . . .

(Price: 95 baht)



Dorne of fresh Salmon, poached in wine and fish stock, served with an array of garden vegetables and parsley sauce . . .

(Price: 295 baht)



Cream of Asparagus and Smoked Salmon Soup with French bread topped with tomato and garlic . . .

(Price: 65 baht)

(available at all outlets throughout the Club)



Casablanca Cocktail

COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

Since it is February, the month for Valentines, our beverage team has created a special pink cocktail to woo you . . .

The **CASABLANCA COCKTAIL** is a delicious blend of white rum, pineapple juice and coconut milk - one sip of this and you will feel like Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacaul in the Movie Casablanca. *(Both at once or one at a time? Ed)*
(Price: 110 baht)

Magic ingredients:

1oz white rum
1/2 oz coconut milk
Blend with crushed ice

11/2 oz pineapple juice
1/4 oz grenadine syrup





OUTSIDE OF ORDINARY



AVAILABLE @ CENTRAL AND SIAM SQUARE (CENTER POINT)
WWW.DRMARTENS.COM



HANNI'S HOTSPOT



Well, it was a sad time for all the BC staff as we struggled and indeed continue to struggle with the tragic loss of our dear Noo. But we must look ahead and look forward

to things to come, some of which are detailed below:

AQUATICS AND SCUBA SECTION RE-LAUNCH!

Here at the Club, we are trying to resurrect the aquatics and scuba sections. If you're still interested in helping out or joining these new sections, but did not attend the meetings we held on the 24th and 25th of January, there's still time to get involved - just speak to me!

JUNIOR SQUASH

Some key members from the squash section and BC staff are joining forces this month to start our junior squash coaching programme here at the Club.

The junior squash coaching will be run by former county squash players with coaching experience and our new in-house squash coach, David Lines. It will be designed to cater for ages from 6 to 18. For beginners we will concentrate on the basics:

- Importance of safe play
- Proper grip
- Hitting a straight drive
- Forehand and backhand
- Serving
- Volleying
- How to play a game and
- Rallying with others

For the more advanced we will progress through to:

- Boasts
- Lobs
- Drop shots
- Court routines (involving combinations of the above)
- Practicing marking and
- Match tactics

We aim to have a ratio of one supervisor to every 4/5 juniors and will group according to ability. There needs to be a minimum of 4 people in order to run the courses and a maximum of 12 for safety reasons. As places are limited, we will run on a first come, first served basis.

The first group of sessions will run over a six-week period from 26/2/06 to 2/4/06. If you are interested, or require more information, please contact myself or Khun Ruengrit (Rit). Registration must be before Wednesday 15/2/06.

Charges for the classes are based on a block of six

weeks at 1,200 Baht (200 Baht per session), which will be charged to the member's account.

LOOKING BACK AND AHEAD!!

The horse riding last month was a great success, so we're going to do another trip to Phoenix Riding Academy. If you're interested in sending your kids again, or didn't manage to get a place last time, reserve a place for the February session now!!

Salsa classes are still on the way - not enough interest yet however. If you'd like to have a go, just let me know!

January saw an excellent launch to our Socratots programme (I'll try to squash-in some pictures on this page). If you'd like to register for the next ten-week block of Socratots, just let me know.

Friday seems to be the most popular day for an extra juniors' swimming class. Please let me know if you would be interested in mid-week swimming lessons for your children.

NEW PRICES FOR 2006

We now have a standard contract for all instructors and coaches here at the Club. This has resulted in some changes to pricing. Details are below and all changes will be effective from 1 February 2006:

Aqua aerobics, 10.30 - 11.30am every Thursday = 350 baht per session.

Thai massage/foot massage from Tuesday to Friday, 10.00am - 6.00pm and Saturday and Sunday 9.00am - 6.00pm = 250 baht per hourly session.

Swimming classes with Bangkok Dolphins, from 9.00am until 1.30pm every Saturday = 3,500 baht for a series of 10 x 30-minute sessions.

Squash coaching = 700 baht per private lesson, 1,200 baht for group sessions (up to 4 people).

Aerobics, every Monday, 10.00am - 11.00am = 3,500 baht for a series of 10 x 1-hour sessions.

Tennis knockers (below prices are for hourly knocking sessions):

Khun Kaew = 500 baht
Khun Tom = 400 baht
Khun Phon = 300 baht
Khun Champ = 250 baht





Millennium Hilton
Bangkok



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Regular Sports, Games & Activities

Aerobics

Monday 10:00-11:00am - Squash Court 3

Aqua Aerobics

Thursday 10:30-11:30am

Bridge

Tuesday 5:30-9:00pm - Churchill Bar

Chess

Thursday 6:00-9:00pm - Churchill Bar

Cricket

Wednesday 6:00-8:30pm Practice - Back lawn
Saturday 9:30-midday - Back lawn
Sunday 3:00-6:00pm - Back lawn

Football

Tuesday 7:00-9:00pm Practice on the Tennis Court

Hockey

Thursday 9:00-11:00pm Practice on the Tennis Court

Rugby

Thursday 7:00-9:00pm Practice on the Tennis court

Snooking

Tuesday 7:00pm until late - Churchill Bar
(except on New Members Nights - move to Silom Soi 4)

Squash

Thursday 5.15-9.00pm Mix-in
And 1st Sunday of every month 10:30am-2:15pm

Swimming

Saturday 9:00am-1:30pm Junior classes

Tennis

Match Play

Monday 6:00-10:00pm

Mix-in All Standards

Wednesday 6:00-10:00pm
Friday 6:00-10:00pm

Ladies Mix-in

Tuesday 8:00-11:00am
Thursday 8:00-11:00am

Yoga

Sunday 3:00-4:00pm in Wordsworth Room

Sports/Activities Price List

Aerobics

Aqua aerobics

Cricket

Massage

Squash

Squash courts

Swimming

Tennis courts

Yoga

Bt 3,500 for 10 lessons of 1 hour

Bt 350 per session

Use of cricket nets - Bt 300 day/Bt 500 evening if lights needed

Thai massage/foot massage - Bt 250 per hourly session

Private coaching with David Lines - Bt 700 per 45 min; group session

Bt 1200 per 45 min

Bt 30 per 45 min

Classes with Bangkok Dolphins - Bt 3,500 for 10 lessons of 30 min

Bt 30 per hour am/Bt 90 per hour pm

Hourly knocking sessions with - Khun Kaew (Bt 500), Khun Tom (Bt 400),

Khun Phon (Bt 300), Khun Champ (Bt 250)

Bt 300 per lesson

All sporting activities can be booked through the Fitness Centre. For Churchill Bar games - just show up!

JUNIOR RUGBY

Another Memorable Year Ahead for the DHL Bangkok Lions RFC

Planning for a host of Junior Rugby initiatives throughout 2006 is well advanced by the DHL Bangkok Lions RFC. The Club will host another regional mini rugby tournament during February as well as sending three age group sides to a youth tournament held in Hong Kong in the days leading up to 30th edition of the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens next March. All this before their regular season recommences on 22nd April 2006.

Regular coaching recommenced on 8th January and will run to Sunday 19th February before visiting teams from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore take part in the Club's Second Asian Mini Rugby Festival which will held at Bangkok Patana School on Saturday 25th February.

The Second Asian Regional Mini Rugby Tournament will be sponsored by DHL and Jardine Shipping Services and will again feature ESPN Star Sports TV Personality Justin "Sambo" Sampson who will be on hand to judge the best and fairest players in each age group plus present medals to each of the over 500 anticipated players. The event will be followed by an evening function on the back lawn of The British Club.

Based on performance at this tournament, three squads of 15 will be selected and invited to participate for Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 year old age groups in a Youth Rugby Tournament hosted by the Hong Kong Rugby Colts Association. The tournament itself will be held the day before the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens and the players and coaches, along with we hope many accompanying parents and family members, will then enjoy one of world rugby's finest festivals at The Sevens.

The Tour to Hong Kong will comprise six days for 45 of the more senior players who will be accompanied by three teachers from Bangkok Patana School and three Lions coaches. Aside from the Youth Tournament and the Hong Kong 7's, it is intended that the tour will also feature perhaps other games with Hong Kong teams and a visit to Hong Kong Disneyland. The tour will be sponsored by Dhevantara Properties, Oil & Gas Professionals and Ben Line Agencies Thailand. In the lead up to the Hong Kong tour training will be held for all age groups, including those not directly involved in the tour, from 4th to 25th March.

The third season of the DHL Bangkok Lions will commence on Saturday 22nd April and will run for 12 consecutive weeks until 8th July. Following the mid year school break a further five weeks of coaching will be held from 2nd to 30th September once international schools have re-opened. The 2006 Season sponsors will again include DHL, Transpo Asian Tigers and Bangkok General Hospital as well as new sponsors Raimon Land, Manpower and VSL.

Registration for the Lions 2006 Season will be held at regular intervals during both February and March on training days at Bangkok Patana School as well as specific registration sessions at Bangkok Patana, ISB, NIST and Shrewsbury schools with details being announced in the local press in advance.

The 2006 season will again feature a coaching clinic by former international rugby players with an evening function, which has been scheduled for Saturday 3rd June details of which will be announced in due course.

Coaching will continue throughout February and March on Sunday mornings on the backfields at Bangkok Patana School in accordance with the information and timescales outlined below:

- Under 6's and Under 8's start at 9.00 am
- Under 10's and Under 12's Start at 10.am
- Under 14's, Under 16's and Under 18's start at 10:45am

January to March 2006

Date	Details
Sunday 5th February	Normal Coaching and Match Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 6's and Under 8's start at 9.00 am Under 10's and Under 12's Start at 10.am Under 14's, Under 16's and Under 18's start at 10:45am
Sunday 12th February	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
Sunday 19th February	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
Saturday 25th February	Regional Mini Rugby Tournament - All Age Groups - Commencing at 9am
Sunday 5th March	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
Sunday 12th March	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
Sunday 19th March	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
Sunday 26th March	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
Wednesday 29th March to Monday 3rd April	Hong Kong Tour

Once the regular season commences, training will revert to Saturday mornings at the same times as above but on the main fields at the Sports Complex opposite Bangkok Patana School, 2/38 Soi LaSalle, Sukhumvit 105.

2006 Regular Season

Week	Date	Details
1	22nd April	Normal Coaching and Match Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 6's and Under 8's start at 9.00 am Under 10's and Under 12's Start at 10.am Under 14's, Under 16's and Under 18's start at 10:45am
2	29th April	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
3	6th May	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
4	13th May	Sevens Day with BBQ All Age Groups - Commencing at 9.00am
5	20th May	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
6	27th May	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
7	3rd June	Rugby Personality Coaching Clinic All Age Groups Commencing at 9.00am Celebrity Dinner Commencing at 7pm
8	10th June	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
9	17th June	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
10	24th June	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
11	1st July	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
12	8th July	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
		Mid Season Break
13	2nd September	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
14	9th September	Normal Coaching and Match Day times (as above)
15	16th September	Normal Coaching and Match Day (times as above)
16	23rd September	Provisional Date For Tour (Details To Follow)
17	30th September	Sevens & Final Day Trophy Ceremony - All Age Groups - Commencing at 9.00am

Further sponsorship opportunities exist and interested parties should contact Bruce Hill on 01 750 7267 or via email on bhillach@loxinfo.co.th

Squashy Bits

I had surmised that writing something about Tom Annas, our oldest playing - and only - Squash Section life-member, would be easy. Get a few stories of heroic deeds on the ball courts and playing fields, I thought, and some racy titbits of a soldier's life and I would have a nice spicy, humorous story to tell. But having taken b*ll sh*t from Tom for about 20 years on the squash courts I had no idea how frustratingly modest he would prove to be about his life achievements.

We sat down one day before Christmas over a few pots of Earl Grey tea and Tom gave me his story with Khun Rumphai in attendance. No, he wasn't going to give me any scope for frivolity or misrepresentation (don't blame him really!). He was meticulous in making sure I got the details right and dismissive of my attempts to dig up the dirt. But as we progressed I became more and more impressed with Tom's sincerity and life values. He is a deep thinker and was (is) clearly a great sportsman. He must have been a formidable opponent in his prime. And clearly he was a great soldier much appreciated by his peers. His personal life wasn't easy (he didn't really want to get into that) and he devoted his life to the Marines. "Tough but fair" someone apparently once described him. I'm sure he was. But he's obviously content with his lot today and enjoying the comradeship of his extended squashy life. It's a pleasure to know him better and to have him with us.

Themistocles Thomas Annas was born in Manhattan, New York City on 3rd October 1925. His parents and ancestors were Greek, his father arriving in the USA as a young man, his mother just 9 months old. His Dad was drafted into the army, served in WW1, and then worked with his brother in the family trade as a wood-work contractor fitting out stores in Manhattan. Young Tom attended De Witt Clinton High School on the Bronx where he developed a passion for American football and enjoyed baseball and basketball.

Graduating from High School in 1943, Tom joined the Marine Corps and was sent off on active service for two years in the South Atlantic. At the end of WW2 he was on the security guard team that took charge of German prisoners captured from

the last submarine allegedly carrying high-ranking Nazis to Argentina. He was discharged in February 1946, studied evenings at City College of New York, worked with his Dad and somehow found time to get married in 1947. This didn't really work out, but they had three kids two of whom have done exceptionally well professionally whilst the other served in Vietnam. Sport was always important and he won some "small honours" at football for his college and was selected for the Greek All-American team in 1946.



Tom, Vietnam, 1968

Tom was still "young enough to be patriotic" when he graduated from college in 1951 and enlisted again with the Marines. He underwent officer training in Quantico, Virginia after receiving a direct commission to 2nd Lieutenant. He then served with an engineer battalion at Camp Le Jeune, where he had his first company command. In December 1953 he was sent to Korea.

There was an armistice in effect and US troops were eyeballing the North Koreans to make sure they didn't do anything naughty. Tom's company had the task of "wiring all the bridges in case they started moving" ("No, the Koreans, not the bridges!"). It was bitterly cold, terrible conditions for engineering work. One of Tom's closest escapes came at night when, zipped up over his head in his sleeping bag, he suddenly woke up to find himself covered in soot, with his tent on fire. The sentry doused the fire with an extinguisher whilst the blackened Tom fled in his long johns. It was minus 17 degrees and Tom's only option was to shower under a 4" running

mountain water pipe. No wonder he never complains about the British Club showers!

Tom's Dad died in 1954 aged 61. Tom managed to get home but his father was already in a coma from which he never recovered. After Korea he was sent to "Parris Island", South Carolina, then an island surrounded by sharks "just in case anyone felt like leaving".



Tom at 7th Fleet Conference, Yokusaka, Japan, 1962

This was one of those boot camps we are all familiar with in the movies, a "gruelling experience" during which recruits occasionally died during extreme tests of their stamina ... great character building for marathon 5-gamers with Dick Anwar later in life! But recruitment fell off, Tom's battalion was disbanded and he was reassigned to the much more reasonable responsibility for asphalt mixers on camp maintenance.

In 1958 Tom was sent back to Little Creek, Virginia, which he described as the "high point" of his learning curve. He was an instructor in amphibious operations, "learning more than his students". A highlight was being sent to Spain to train the Spanish Marines. Tom played his last Football game at Little Creek and also played in the 10th Naval District Championship softball team. He was also playing handball in the all-Marine and the Washington area championships where he came up against national ranked players.

In 1960 Tom attended junior officers school at Quantico and after 9 months was sent to Okinawa, Japan, which was still under US control. Here he worked as an assistant logistics officer at the HQ of the combined operations of the Marines in the Far East. It was from here that he made his first visit to Thailand, covering operations in Laos, where he met his new wife to be, Khun Rumphai. Khun Rumphai was working in a gold shop. "Did Tom know much about jewellery Khun Rumphai?" I asked ... "No, but I knew about people who worked in jewellery shops" Tom interrupted.

He returned to Thailand in 1962 with an expeditionary unit at the request of the Thai Government, concerned about a possible incursion from Laos. Tom coordinated logistics between Bangkok and Udorn Thani. Sadly his



Marines Birthday Party, Bangkok, 1983

mother died of cancer that year. Tom reflected wistfully that officers were supposed to put their jobs above personal matters and she died before he could get back.

After 1962 Tom returned to Quantico with the Marine Corps research development command where he was put in charge of an ammunition requirement study. Backed up by computer simulations of warfare at Stanford Research Institute, ammunition options were tested against different opponents under different conditions, producing a mix of recommended ammunition requirements for different battle scenarios. This is where we can assume Tom worked out the potency of firing a squash ball up the backside of any opponent threatening to take up position on the T.

Tom was then transferred to the Fleet Marine Forces HQ in the Pacific in Hawaii. He was assigned to the engineering section responsible for all military construction and facilities in the Pacific. A Major since 1962, he spent most of his time travelling to Vietnam and sometimes to Thailand. "Bangkok was an oasis in those days".



Tom's son Constantine with Jahangir Khan



Tom & Rumphai, Marines Birthday Party, Bangkok, 1983



It was "like a village and people were not materialistic". "Taxi drivers would sometimes take passengers for free." Most of Tom's contacts were with the engineering community involved in military construction.

Tom, by now a Lieutenant Colonel, was sent to Vietnam in 1968, commander of an engineer battalion. I really couldn't get Tom to say too much but he was obviously in the thick of the action spending most of his time "trying to keep my ass nailed on"! His battalion took many losses but Tom is proud of the fact that they tried to help civilians by building small dams, schools and brick making facilities. His battalion's job was to build military bridges and sweep roads for landmines. "If you didn't find them with your minesweepers you would find them with your vehicles!" Tom was fired at "a few times" and narrowly escaped a mine laid for him but which his driver missed as he swerved to avoid a civilian.

By now Tom was "thinking more about life" and "re-examining his priorities". He returned to California in August 1969 and joined the 5th Marine Division as battalion commander of the 5th Engineers, which was deactivated four months later. Marines were now being pulled out of the war and Tom was reassigned as Logistics Officer of the 5th Marine Brigade. Tom decided he wanted to retire. This was initially refused since it seems he had been such a dedicated Marine that no one really believed him. But his request was accepted a year later when his friends at HQ realised he was serious.

I asked Tom whether he felt more American than Greek. "Sure. I never felt Greek". But he grew up speaking the language with his family and recollected that in 1962 he was sent to Greece for a short period to train senior officers. He was pretty rusty but they asked to him to carry out the training in Greek and was obviously flattered that the trainees soon began to regard him as one of their own, talking about the Americans as "them".

Tom came to Thailand in August 1970 aged 45 to "start something". "The first 5 years were very difficult" trying to establish himself. He worked for an investment company for a couple of years and then formed his own company, Omni Capitol, with three friends. By 1974 he had had enough of that and went into market

research forming another company Martec doing market research, public relations, executive recruitment and special projects.

The famous knees saga began in 1968 when he had surgery on his left one and in 1983 it was the turn of his right one to go under the knife. After a holiday in the USA with Khun Rumphai and their two kids Constantine and Vanida, he worked as a consultant with Thai British Security Printers.

Tom joined the British Club as an Associate Member in July 1980. There were only 50 Associate slots in those days and they were at a premium as they rarely turned over. Tom was introduced to Charles Stewart and Arthur Phillips by David Frost and a shady deal was done.

In 1981, at the age of 56 Tom decided to join the squash league and came up against his toughest challenge yet ... *moi!* ... Jack Dunford ... squash ladder coordinator ... Sir! In spite of claims to being Thailand's number one racquet-ball player at Jusmag and Soi Khlang, there was no room for sentimentality. Tom had to start in



Tom & Rumphai

Division 18 ... the bottom ... where he was consigned with the lady beginners! To be fair he never complained (well not more than 10 times a day) and diligently worked his way up, Division by Division, to Division 4 winning umpteen trophies in the process. "Who was your greatest victim Tom?" I asked. "Guess I whipped everyone!" was the typical Tom reply!

Tom had one or two more jobs but when a teaching position was cut short by the economic collapse in 1997 he decided to retire permanently. These days he spends most of his time "shopping and visiting the hospital" where he has recently undergone major new surgery on both knees. "When are we going to see you back on court Tom?" "Well the doctor is 'waffling' but I hope to hit a few balls soon".

We hope so Tom, but no rush. As you say, the new knees are guaranteed for 20 years and you need to get your money's worth.

Congratulations to the winners of **League # 202: Division 1 Chris Browning, 2 David Eastgate, 3 John Vivian, 4 Bob Briddon, 5 Bill Randall.**

There is a sample of the new Section Squash shirt on display in the Fitness Centre. Looks great! Let's hope we can buy some soon.

Jack Dunford



*"So who's my partner this time?"
Checking the draw at the Second Tennis Extravaganza.*



Winners of the Second Tennis Extravaganza, with Marc.



Runners up, Second Tennis Extravaganza.

The British Club Annual Tennis Championships

The British Club's annual tennis championships are now well underway. They will continue throughout February with the finals scheduled for Saturday 18th March.

If you are still in the tournament please do get your games played by the deadlines, in order that the tournament can keep to the schedule. Following the finals on the Saturday there will be the presentation of the trophies and prizes at an early evening buffet meal. Even if you do not make the finals we would like as many players as possible to support this event.

Match vs. the Thai-German Chamber of Commerce

The annual challenge match against the Thai-German Chamber of Commerce took place at the British Club with the Inter Club trophy up for grabs. This year the British Club team managed a clean sweep of the men's, ladies and mixed sections and consequently won the overall trophy. After the match, a buffet meal was enjoyed by both teams and the trophy presented to Club Captain, Marc Nussaume.

The Tennis Section would like to thank Chin Holdings, who supplied us with their Penn balls for the match and displayed their tennis and squash range of sports goods on the front lawn.

"Tennis Extravanzas"

Over the past two months the Section has hosted two Sunday tennis tournaments. These have both been organised and run by Marc Nussaume. The events have been very well supported by all standards of players and proved to be excellent fun.

The first tournament involved round-robin leagues with each pair playing every other pair in their league. Some creative partnerships resulted in very close and keenly contested matches. In the semi-finals Marc Hagelauer and Tamourn Hong defeated Anton Bonje and Jirapa Techasarin, and Enrique Valero and Id Gainsford beat Simon Gainsford and Mike Stead. The final proved to be a very close affair with Marc and Tamourn just taking the honours against Enrique and Id.

Following the success of the first "extravaganza" a second was held on 15th January, which was once again very well supported by Section members. This time Marc came up with a new tournament format. This involved changing partners after every match with each match lasting 25 minutes. Each player scored the number of games they had at the end of

that time. A handicap was allocated to each player and the total scores adjusted. The eight players with the highest scores, after adjustments, were David and Kate Henton, Jirawan Techasarin, Angela, Chris Watt, Na and Natasha Nussaume and Ratt Tanking.

In the first semi-final Angela and Chris remained cool in the hot conditions and overcame a spirited performance from Kate and Na. In the second semi-final David and Jirawan took on Ratt and Natacha with David and Jirawan sealing victory 6-4 in a tie break after the two pairs were 4-all at the end of the timed period.

In the final the players changed partners again with Angela and Jirawan paired against David and Chris. The heat of the day certainly took its toll on David and Chris. The two girls proved to be too consistent for the boys and completed a comfortable victory.

The traditional after-tournament buffet on the lawn brought the proceedings to a very pleasant conclusion with the trophies being presented to the winners. A big thank-you from all the players concerned must go to Marc Nussaume for all the time and effort he took to organise and run the tournament. Please do try to help the organisers, as failure to turn up after you have signed up for a tournament (especially without letting us know) causes tremendous headaches!

Well done to everyone who took part. A special mention must go to Zoey Daly who plucked up the courage to enter her first ever tournament and played very well.

Wednesday and Friday Evening Mix-ins

The mix-in sessions continue to be very popular, with 29 attending a recent Friday session. Remember it is open to all Section members no matter what your standard of play. The courts are booked from 6:00pm and all you have to do is turn up, sign in and play. The cost for the whole evening is only 80 baht and this includes a snack at 8:30pm. Why not give it a try?

Monday Club Nights

Monday nights are open to all **experienced players** who would like to play competitively. (Beginners and inexperienced players are most welcome at the Mix-ins on Wednesdays and Fridays.) The courts are booked from 6:00pm - 9:00pm and all you have to do is turn up, sign in and play. New balls are provided each week and the cost for the evening is 80 baht. Once again, why not give it a try?

David Eastgate

On behalf of our Captain and the committee, we wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year 2006.



Gaew is all smiles after winning the 2005 Inaugural Cup



The members team celebrate their victory over the committee in the Deemed Cup

December was busy and full of surprises. In between celebrations and parties, it was difficult to put pen to paper or fingers to keys as too many adult beverages took their toll.

Too much turkey, mince pies and booze got everyone checking their weighing scales! No problemo; one way of getting rid of excess weight is by having fun and swinging in style on beautiful golf courses! 2006 fixtures promise lots of exciting events. Don't miss out, sign up!! Check out our website for more details: <http://www.geocities.com/bcgolfsociety>

During the long weekend at Majestic Creek, Hua Hin, from 3rd-5th December, three days of tough competitions were played. One of the highlights was the match played on Sunday the 4th against GCL for the "Sual Bell" Cup, otherwise known as the "Shutup Cup"!!! This is the only trophy that we have had difficulty bringing back home - it had been at least 7 years.

Day 1:

Three trophies were won on the first day: the Ambassador Cup, the Inaugural Cup and the Deemed Cup; and about 26 members took part. The format played was stableford, with members playing against each other for the first two Cups and the Committee vs Members match for the Deemed Cup. The weather was perfect - cool and breezy, but players kept their competitive edge.

Results:

Ambassador Cup: Won by - Orin Baldwin with 40 points.
Inaugural Cup: Won by - Gaew with 39 points
Deemed Cup: Won by - Members (Ho, ho, ho ..., Members really put Committee to shame!!! Congratulations to all winners.)

Day 2:

GCL, the reigning champions for almost a decade of the "Sual Bell" Cup, turned up in force. After an excellent practice round on Day 1, Captain Pete Gale decided to use a tactic called "high breaks low" - our high handicap pairs against their lower handicaps. For example, Mam (33) and Orin (36) paired up against 7 and 13 handicappers of GCL's team. The weather appeared to be too good to be true, the setting of an exciting day. We wanted the Cup badly but we were aware that it was going to be very tough. "May the force be with you!" said our captain, as the competition began at 8.30am. Well, as the day was drawing to an end . . . Mam and Orin turned in a surprising triumph with a spectacular win of 4 and 3! Randy and Henry admitted they had never lost their game to any BC pair before, but this time got defeated by two women! They wanted revenge next time around! The secret was our excellent putts and our generosity in treating them to a beer at each kiosk, rather an expensive round!



New Years Event: *New member Ray ripped up the course on his BCGS debut*



Val Ashman clutches her prize tightly; well done!



Belinda gets another birdie to continue her fantastic run of form

The results were A/S with one group to come in. It was very tense indeed waiting for the last result. The official result was announced at a BBQ hosted by Khun Chalie at his beach house. He had kindly arranged delicious food, which we enjoyed in a beautiful setting as we do every year after the competition. No need to say how grateful we are for their warm hospitality. As the final result was announced we realised that at last we had done it . . . we had won the "Sual Bell" Cup! It was a special day and special night for our BC team for our success in bringing the Cup home after 7 years. Well done team.

Day 3:

On the last day of our very enjoyable weekend our luck ran out and the skies opened. Those of us mad enough to play were convinced that the day would clear up, and it did, but unfortunately when we were well on the back nine. We asked the caddies would it stop and they said 'no' - never doubt them, they always get it right! The scores reflected the weather, with some record breaking low stableford points, but Joom showed us what she is made of and played comfortably below handicap to achieve 38 points. Amazing in those conditions!

New Years Event:

The New Year game, which normally takes place on 1st January, was postponed until 8th January this year. This is a fun event in which only three clubs of your choice are used, plus a putter. The results of this competition are always surprisingly good - some of us would probably play better without too much choice.



Carrol Anne won longest drive after ripping one down the middle - New Years Event

The weather was perfect with a gentle wind blowing throughout the game. Bangpakong was an excellent choice of venue, as it is not too difficult, having nice wide fairways and very little rough!

Our new member Ray, played an exceptional game to secure 43 points. He also had his name on four of the technical prize flags and three of them held up! However, as his handicap has not yet been finalised with the British Club, Val Ashman took winning place with 40 points. With two no-score holes on the card she is now considering putting up the rest of her clubs for sale! New member Tom came second with 37 points and Pete Gale a close third. Peter and Belinda Skinner kept it in the family with a technical prize each, Belinda with a very close near pin, which she popped in for a birdie. A habit she has secured and should maintain! Carol-Anne cracked one down the middle to win longest drive for the ladies. Well done to all winners!

Dunlop Cup and Plate:

Last time we left you on the edge of your seat, waiting for the results of the Dunlop Cup and Plate event. Here they are:

Mike and Pat triumphed over sponsor Dave Lamb and partner Peter second time around after their first match finished in a stalemate.

Val and Roy won the Plate, defeating Karen C and Gaew in the final.

Once again, a huge thanks to David and Cheryl Lamb for the great prizes.

Orin Baldwin & Edward Ashman

LOOKING BACK



Deaf Children's Xmas Party



The best part of celebrating Christmas must be watching the joy that it brings to children. This was certainly evident at the Deaf Children's Christmas Party, here at the British Club this December. One hundred children from the Suthisan School for the Deaf arrived by *song thaew* at the British Club on 20th December 2005. They were in awe of all the activities we had provided for them on the back lawn. There were constant smiles as they enjoyed the candy floss, magic show, dog show, bouncy castle, stilt walkers, puppet show, Christmas cards, ponies and the best bit . . . the inflatable slide!!

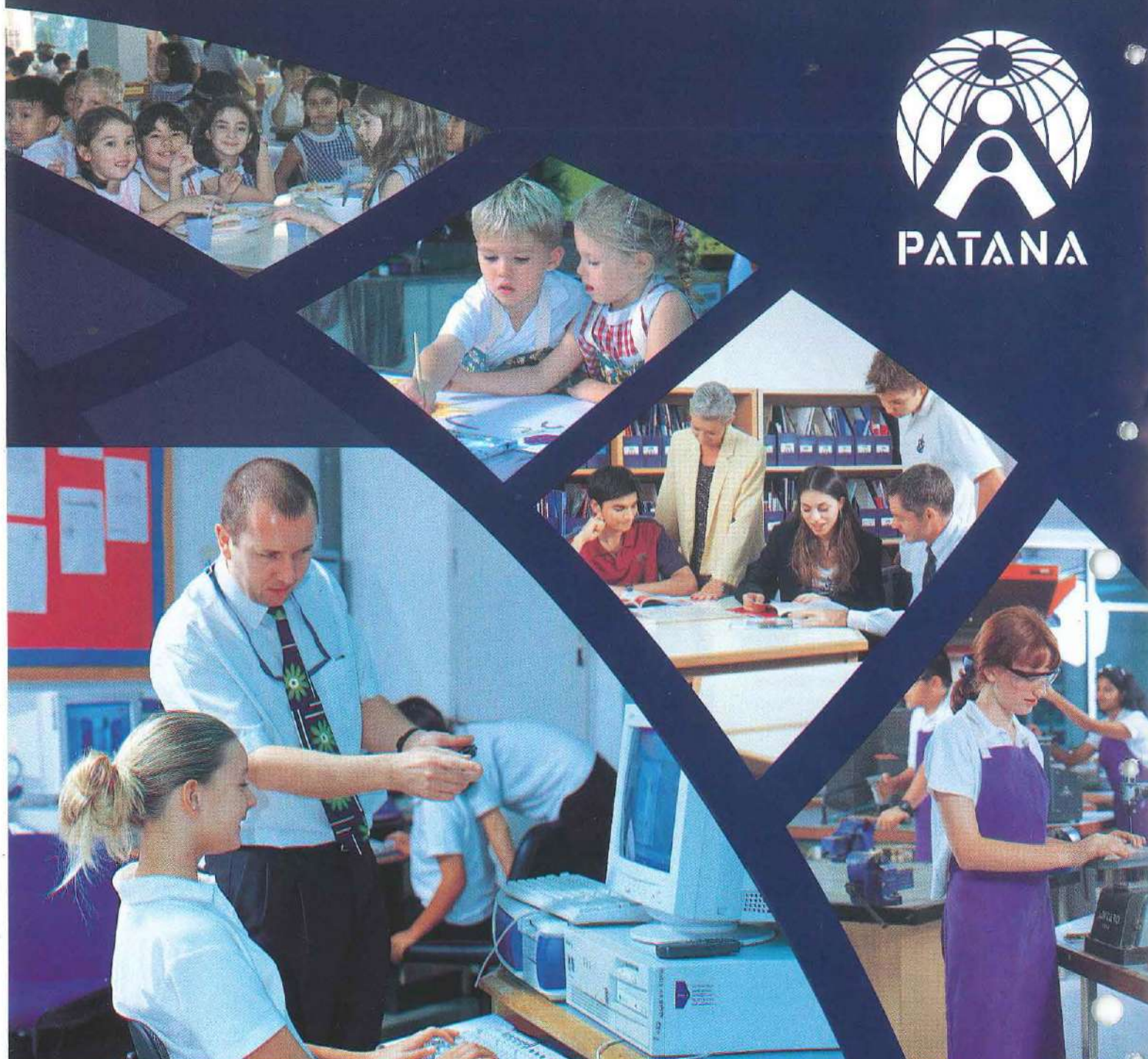
This was all finished off with burgers, fries and chicken nuggets before Santa visited in his *tuk-tuk* with presents for all. The children were overwhelmed with all their gifts and gave us all a gift in return . . . there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

Thanks to all who helped sponsor this event:

St. George's Society
St. Andrew's Society
Bambi
British Women's Group
Bob Coombes from Choice Foods
and all the donations from British Club staff.

A special thank you to Gail Bailey, Katherine Biggs, Judith Aphaiwongse, and Anne Broadhurst for helping out on the day . . . and drinking tons of gin in the bar afterwards!!





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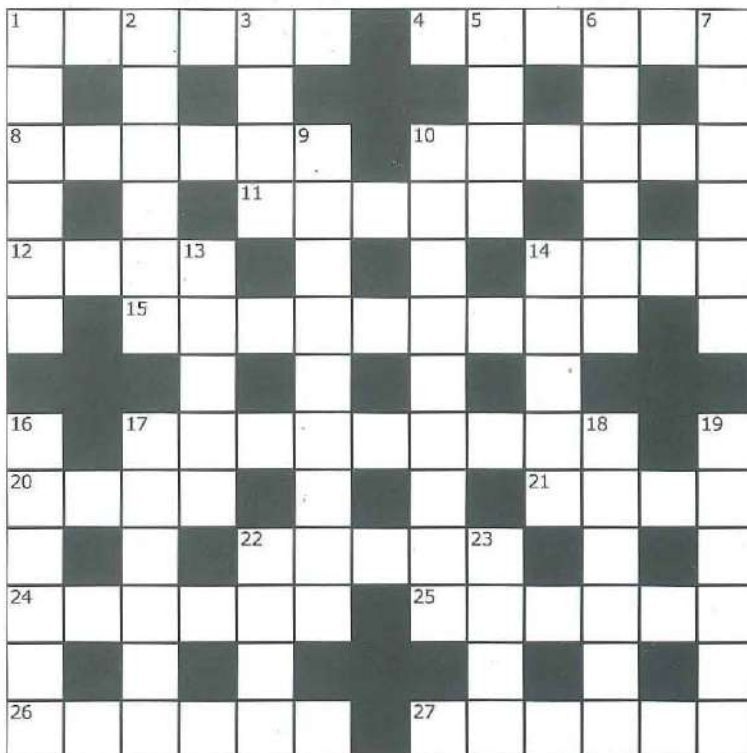


Bangkok Patana School is accredited by the Council of International Schools and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and is a member of the International Baccalaureate Organisation

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Crossword Competition

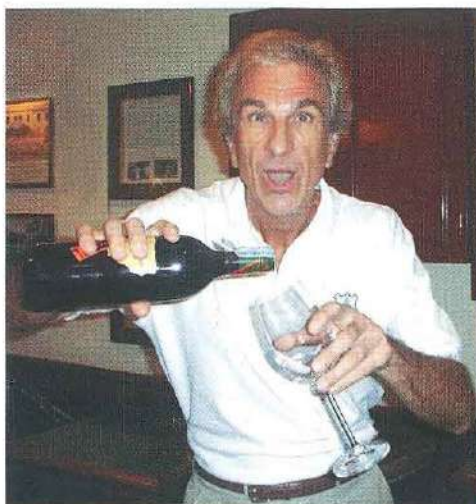
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



January Solution

Across: 6 Maugham, 7 Bacon, 9 Bette, 10 Carroll, 12 Daniel, 13 Tony, 15 John, 17 Nelson, 20 Charles, 21 Mills, 23 Sprat, 24 Freedom.

Down: 1 James, 2 Agatha, 3 Mae, 4 Barret, 5 Collins, 8 Carlyle, 11 Minnies, 14 Bobhope, 16 Norman, 18 Oliver, 19 Elton, 22 Fry.



Be the first person to enter the correct entry for this month's puzzle to Barry or Khun Ben and receive a bottle of wine. The winner of the first crossword competition of 2006 was Mr. Barry Daniel (pictured) getting the year off to a great start and obviously delighted with his Merlot . . .

"You beauty!"

Clues

Across

- 1 Treat badly.
- 4 Vegetables from Scandinavia.
- 8 "A pampered _____ beggar." (Oliver Goldsmith)
- 10 "_____ in the younger sort is a part of education." (Bacon)
- 11 Things can turn on it.
- 12 "She left the web, she left the _____." (Tennyson)
- 14 Diva's song.
- 15 One who performs ceremonies.
- 17 "Turn again, Whittington, _____ of London!" (Children's story) (4,5)
- 20 "I am the _____ of all the ages." (Tennyson)
- 21 "That little _____ of blue, which prisoners call the sky." (Oscar Wilde)
- 22 A beast in the USA!
- 24 Popular name for the champagne.
- 25 Strong and vigorous.
- 26 Get one's own back.
- 27 "What! Must I hold a _____ to my shame!" (Merchant of Venice)

Down

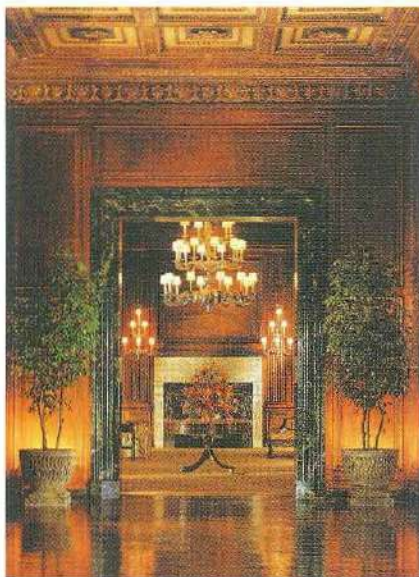
- 1 Speak indistinctly.
- 2 Superior in standing.
- 3 "... and you may charm it with smiles and _____." (Lewis Carroll)
- 5 Small excrescence.
- 6 Entertain . . . and turn in another direction.
- 7 The ruler in most Malaysian states.
- 9 Ready cash flow.
- 10 He turns out the utensils we use to fix things.
- 13 The lesser of two units.
- 14 Turn your coats for a day's racing here!
- 16 Irrational fear.
- 17 Legally bound.
- 18 Pay back.
- 19 "The brazen _____ to o'erlook my grave." (Browning)
- 22 Work hard!
- 23 Duty list.

Reciprocal Club Benefits

As an active British Club Member, you are entitled to enjoy the full use of other associated Club facilities around the world. This month we feature the reciprocal club . . .



The Standard Club



Living Room

The Standard Club, Chicago

Nationally recognized as one of the most prestigious private city clubs in the United States, The Standard Club has been an integral part of Chicago's business elite and fashionable society since its founding in 1869. The Club is revered as one of Chicago's civic treasures, an organization whose incomparable prestige and principles have attracted the city's business, cultural and charitable leaders for generations - a legacy that lives on today.

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Guest rooms: the Club's 60 luxurious guest rooms and suites are within easy walking distance of Chicago's major business, financial, legal and cultural destinations.

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Website: www.stclub.org



Library



Main Dining Room



Guest Room



Indoor Swimming Pool

For more information please contact the Membership Department at membership@britishclubbangkok.org

HELLOS

Welcome Aboard!

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

1. Richard & Edna Hayward
2. Neil & Seungjin Maffey
3. Mark & Julie Vinton
4. David & Lynn Bishopp
5. Ian Carter
6. Stephen & Marion Gabbott
7. Linda Abbott
8. Howard & Kathryn Noble
9. Fabrice & Laura Orrier
10. Marcel Dubbelman
11. Bernard Llamzon
12. Alok & Jaya Jain
13. Jigna & Tejas Vyas

and GOODBYES

Farewell and best wishes to . . .

1. Andrew & Diana Warburton
2. Paul & Joanne Clifton
3. Vincent & Angela Chirouze
4. Sumeet & Vandana Singla
5. George & Dona Bailey
6. Annemarie & Richard Durbin
7. Stephen & Helen Seagrove
8. Gregory Brown
9. Keith & Taksina Rowley
10. Peter & Jintapat Mawdith



What a Blessing!

On Monday 16 January 2006, in lieu of the staff party, the Club held a special blessing ceremony in the Suriwongse room, starting at 9.30am. Nine priests from Kaew Cham Pha Temple were invited to perform the ceremony.

After the recent string of accidents to both staff and members at the British Club, we felt that our spirits could do with a little lifting! The idea was to rid the Club of any sadness or bad feeling and provide a fresh, new start to 2006.

The ceremony began with all staff and attending members sitting on the floor in front of the monks. They began their rhythmic chanting and blessed the whole Club. At 10.30am, we presented them with a delicious midday meal. The monks always have to eat before 11.00am.

After their meal, the monks finished the ceremony with another spell of hypnotic chanting, and then we were finally blessed with holy water, before the staff and members feasted on the food that was left.

Thank you to all members and staff who spared the time to come to this special day, which will now become an annual event. Let's hope that the ceremony has set things straight and that everyone remains safe and well this year.

Getting in touch

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Nick Day	Vice Chair & Chair - IT Sub Committee	gc@britishclubbangkok.org
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Gerald Wright	St Patrick's	gerryw@amantaresources.com
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BCB Webpage	online	http://www.britishclubbangkok.org
Outpost Submissions	Member magazine	outpost@britishclubbangkok.org

The British Club

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nist

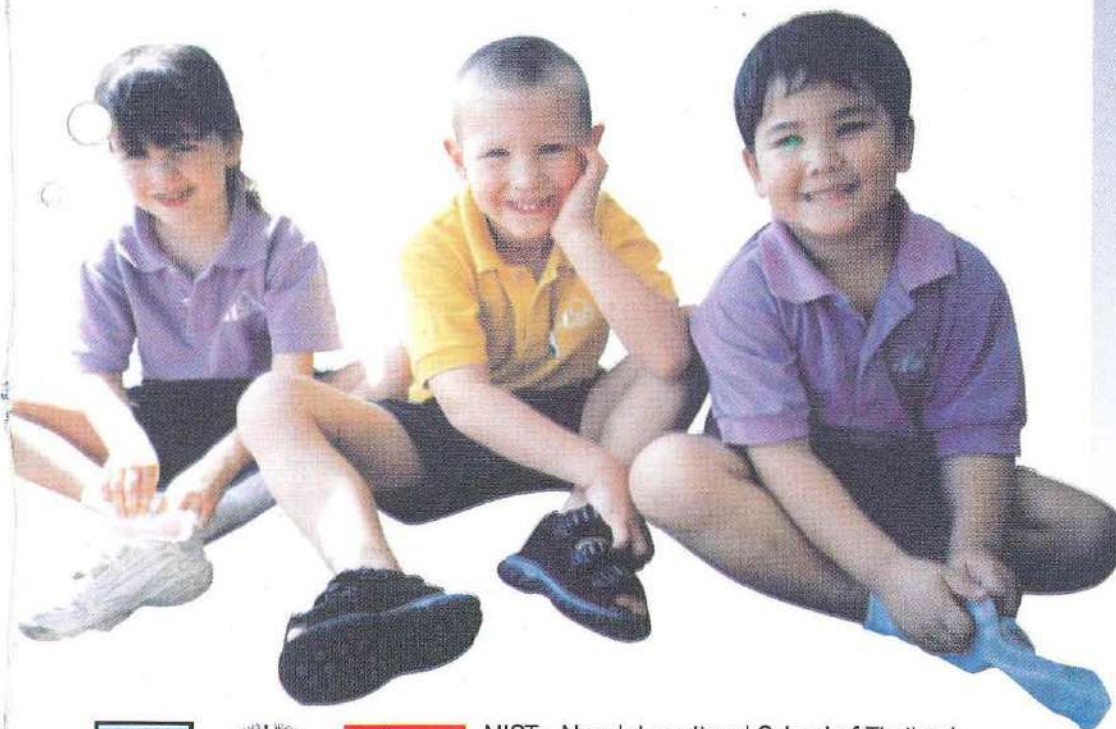
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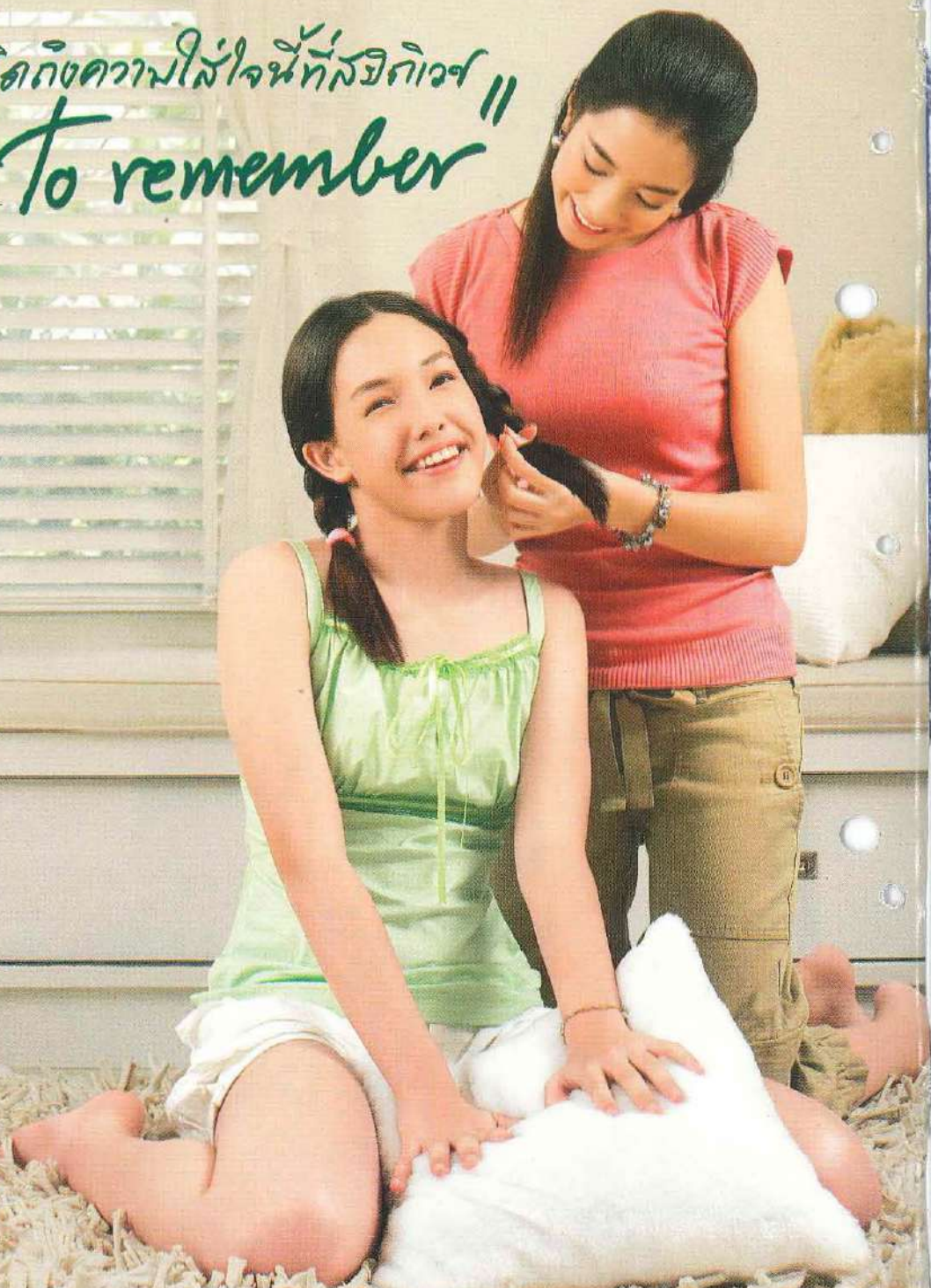
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