



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

OUTPOST

"aMOOSing"

FEBRUARY 2008

Farm Chokchai welcomes the British Club

aMOOSing Issue

Leap-year parties for young & old

Santa was busy! - looking back on our festive season events, Year of the Rat, Children's Ratatouille party

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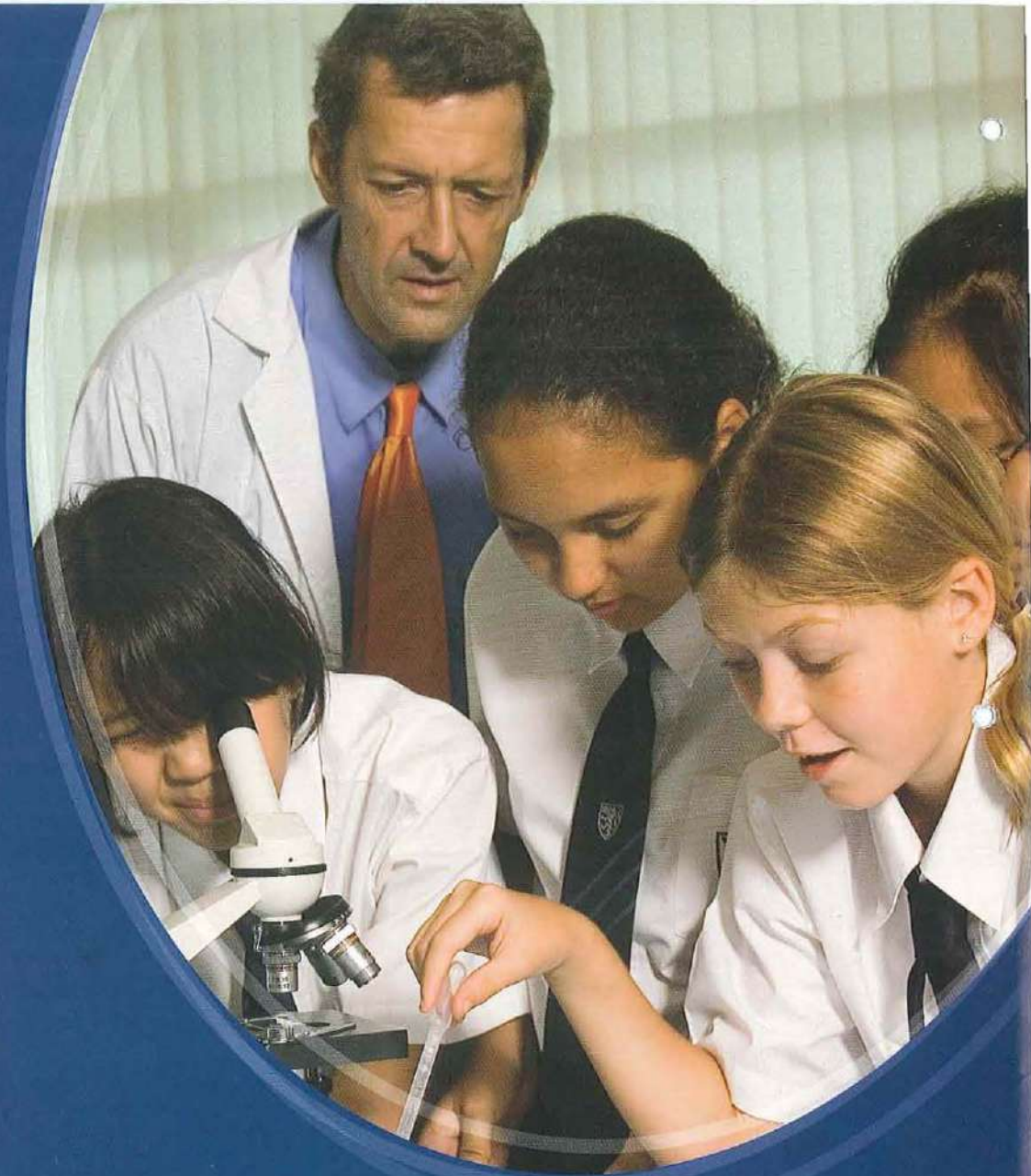
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CONTENTS



In goes the ice! Over 100 members welcomed in the New Year with warm drinks and a cool pool at the BC's first ever Polar Swim. See pages 32-33 for more.

HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana 1923-2008

Letter from the Chairman

CEO's Report

Bazza's Banter

What's Going On

Your guide to Special Club Events

Balut

Regular weekly Events

Monthly Calendar

Club Features

Susie's Kids Korner

On the Menu

Book Reviews

Club Events & Notices

BCB Annual General Meeting

Upcoming Attractions

Maroon 5 Live in Bangkok

Children's Ratatouille Party

Visit to Farm Chokchai

Looking Back

Children's Christmas Party

Deaf Children's Christmas Party

Christmas Quiz

Christmas Day at the Club

Carols on the back lawn

Children's Christmas Ball

New Year's Eve Dinner Cruise

Recovery Day and Polar Swim

Sports

Sports, Games & Activities: times & prices

Sport & Fitness with Reed Passmore

Golf

Tennis

Squash

Rugby

Sudoku - Double Diabolical

In Touch

Hellos and Goodbyes

4-5

5

5

7

9

11

12

24-25

14

26

47

39

10

27

41

16-17

18

20

22-23

23

28-29

30-31

32-33

38

39

36-37

42-43

44-45

46

40

48

The Amazing Farm Chokchai

Our front cover this issue features a layout of the amazing Farm Chokchai, the largest and most advanced dairy farm in Southeast Asia. It provides a range of consultancy services and is the only farm breeding dairy cows for export to neighbouring countries. More importantly for British Club members, it's the only dairy farm that opens its doors to the public. The Farm has won a Tourism Thailand Award for its "Edutainment" approach to farm tourism, with hands-on tours where people from all walks of life can milk cows, ride horses, feed the cute animals in the petting zoo and even make their own ice cream.

The farm was started way back in 1957 by Chokchai Bulakul who dreamed of being a cowboy. He bought 20,000 rai (2,600 hectares) of land near Saraburi, 159 km northeast of Bangkok, when a hectare cost about \$1.20 instead of the current \$30,000+. The farm was a high forest plateau infested with malaria. At first Chokchai bred and raised local beef cattle and in 12 years he had built the biggest and most advanced cattle ranch in Thailand and was producing the finest quality premium steaks with a new breed of beef cattle. The business expanded to include three steakhouses, still running and very popular today. In 1968 Chokchai expanded into dairy farming and bred the 'Chokchai Friesian', a dairy cow ideal for Thailand and Asia's climatic conditions.

The dairy farm proved a great success and in 1987 'Chokchai' brand pasteurized milk was introduced to the market and played an important role in the advancement of Thailand's dairy industry. By this time Chokchai Bulakul was also frying other fish. He developed an enormous shopping mall in Bangkok and named it after his mother and father, 'Mah' and 'Boonkrong'. But debt was stalking the family empire and by 1996 the MBK Mall had been sold off and the Chokchai Farm Group was in trouble. Then along came, not a knight in shining armour, but another visionary cowboy, in the person of Chokchai's son Choak. Returning from his studies in America, he decided to try something new to save the family business and, despite initial family resistance, his combination of creative vision and sound business acumen resulted in Farm Chokchai being born again. Choak eliminated the crushing debt by selling off the dairy processing side of the business to an outside company and concentrated on developing the tourism potential of the farm, introducing the first "agro-tour" in 2000 . . .

Today, underneath the cowboy and tourist trappings, Farm Chokchai presents a high quality farm experience unique to Thailand and, having gotten back to nature in a safe and comfortable way, many people - adults and children - have found that this natural farm experience has enriched their lives.

The British Club is organising a special private tour of Chokchai Farm, scheduled for Saturday 9th February. See the poster on page 41 for details.

There are five Remy rats hidden in this issue (they look like the one on page 26, but of course that one doesn't count - and neither does the one on page 27!). The first five persons (under 14 and one per family) to contact Barry at the Club and correctly state the locations of all five rats will each win a ticket to the Children's Ratatouille Party on Chinese New Year.

Billy Beefeater



Cover pic-
An aerial view of Farm Chokchai. The Club is organising a full day of activities at the farm - see page 41.

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 management or by Veritas Enterprises.

OUTPOST is produced on behalf of the British Club by Veritas Enterprises. For advertising inquiries contact Jim Fowler (081-844-7015 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 189 Surawongse Road, Bangkok, Thailand 10500
Tel: 02 234 0247 Fax: 02 235 1560
Entrance via Silom Soi 18

The British Club Bangkok joins with its members and Thai staff in mourning the sad loss of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana.



HRH PRINCESS GALYANI VADHANA 1923 - 2008

The Sister of Two Kings

It is already difficult to be a sister of a king but Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana was the sister of two Kings of Thailand.

Like her brothers - HM King Ananda Mahidol (King Rama VIII, who passed away in 1946) and the reigning monarch HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej (King Rama IX) - Her Royal Highness commanded love and respect from Thais across the country.

Like her mother HRH the Princess Sri Nagarindra, the Princess Mother, she was the patron of many foundations that work seriously for the well-being of Thais.

HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana was born on May 6, 1923 in London. She was the oldest child of Prince Mahidol - a son of King Chulalongkorn - and his commoner wife, Sangwal, later Somdej Phra Srinagarindra Baromrajajananani, lovingly known as the Princess Mother. All three of their children were born abroad, where Prince Mahidol traveled and studied medicine.



HRH the Princess Mother with her three young children, (l-r) Ananda Mahidol, Princess Galyani Vadhana and Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The family's early life was difficult, with Prince Mahidol dying in 1929, leaving his wife to raise the three children alone. After Thailand's absolute monarchy was abolished following a 1932 coup d'état, the Princess Mother and her children moved to Switzerland to be away from the maelstrom of politics. In 1935, HRH Princess Galyani's brother, Ananda, was named king, though he was to spend most of the next decade, including World War 2, in neutral Switzerland. "We were in a small country and we were just monsieur, mademoiselle, not prince or princess," the Princess recalled in 2000. "Some people did not know we were a royal family. We were like Swiss children and we knew a simple life of ordinary people." However the Princess's academic achievements in Switzerland were far from ordinary. She completed her secondary education in 1938 at the International School of Geneva with the school's top marks and attained the third best marks in Switzerland.

Perhaps the most cosmopolitan of her generation of royals, HRH Princess Galyani taught French language and literature at Chulalongkorn University and Thammasart University after her post-war return from Switzerland, though she had graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Lausanne. A lifelong Francophile, she founded the Association of Teachers of French in Thailand, which she headed in 1977-81.

She also took up an intensive schedule of charity work and graciously lent her support to many worthy organisations. In particular, she was a patron of at least five health-related foundations. "My father was a doctor and my mother was a nurse. I suppose that has something to do with my work (on charities)," she once said in an interview. "I lived a long time in Switzerland and when I came back to Thailand I saw there was much to be done in every domain."

While dedicated to teaching and the arts, Princess Galyani considered it important to continue the work begun by her mother, the Princess Mother, in supporting the activities of the Foundation of Voluntary Doctors under Royal Patronage of HRH the Princess Mother. A special concern of the voluntary doctors is to alleviate the pain and suffering



of ordinary folk who are suffering illness, especially those who cannot afford normally available medical services or who live in remote areas.

The Princess was intensely involved in projects under her royal patronage, especially traditional Thai arts, education, sports and social welfare. She was president and honorary president of organisations and foundations as diverse as the Cardiac Children's Foundation, the Princess Mother's Charity Fund and the Autistic Foundation of Thailand. The late Princess was noted for her interest in the arts, especially theater and classical music. She created her own foundation for funding the studies of gifted young musicians, and she was the Royal Patron of the Bangkok Opera.

HRH Princess Galyani spoke five languages, and loved to travel, documenting many of her journeys in books. Known to be modest and self-effacing, she told an interviewer in 2000 that: "I don't like gala dinners. They're boring." The Princess also traveled widely within Thailand and overseas to represent the Royal Family and her country on missions and was a focus of affection of the Thai people.

Letter from the Chair



Dear Members,

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana in early January. On behalf of the British Club Bangkok, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the people of Thailand and our thoughts are with them during this time of great sadness.

Many of you will be aware that Reed Passmore has joined the Club as our new Sports and Recreation Manager. Reed brings a great deal of sports knowledge and enthusiasm to the Club. He has already instigated a number of initiatives in the sports area and I know he will be a great asset to the Club. Please contact Reed if you have any ideas regarding sports and recreation matters that you believe would benefit the Club.

As detailed on page 39 of this issue of Outpost, the Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th March in the Suriwongse Room at 7 pm. As I have mentioned previously, in recent years there has not been a competitive election for General Committee positions due to there being only a minimum number of nominations (the General Committee requires a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 people). I urge all Ordinary members who have an interest in the future of the Club to consider standing for election to the General Committee of the Club.

Best regards,

Dr Stuart Blacksell

Chairman

BCB General Committee 2007/2008

and the CEO's report

Dear Members,

One month of 2008 gone already and it has been a sad January for the residents of Thailand, including our fellow members and staff, as all have been much saddened by the loss of King Bhumibol's sister HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana.

Prior to the sad news, we did have some enjoyable events and probably none more enjoyable than New Year's Day when Barry, Reed and staff held our first 'Polar Swim'. The pool was filled with ice and many families braved the chilly conditions to compete in a number of games and events.

Our New Year's Eve Cruise was also a fantastic event and we now know we have a great formula to repeat the event next year. Great boat, great music, food, scenery and fireworks. Don't miss out this year!

The Club year is fast drawing to a close and we are working hard to get our 2008 Year Book together, so if you want to change your photo or details please send them to us as soon as you can.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th March in the Suriwongse Room at 7 pm. Members who are interested in serving on the General Committee should nominate by lodging an application form by Tuesday 11th March, marked to my attention, so that a list of candidates can be circulated prior to the Meeting.

All details regarding the AGM are on page 39 of this issue of Outpost so please read and participate in making our Club even better.

Michael Silcock

Chief Executive Officer



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BNH Spine Centre



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The Year of the Rat – but not on the Menu!

Dear Members,

Welcome to Chinese New Year and the year of the Rat! To celebrate we will have a Chinese food promotion - and live music as well - on Friday 8th February in the Verandah bar, available at lunch and dinner times at Bt.280 per head.

For Shrove Tuesday on 5th February, there'll be our customary pancake buffet for lunch and dinner also in the Verandah at Bt.280 per head, featuring baked, fried and regular pancakes - and even a few with an oriental and Thai twist.

February is also Valentines of course and we will have a special Valentines Menu created by Khun Laak on Friday 15th February - one night after Valentines proper.

Looking further ahead we have booked tickets to see Maroon Five live in concert at the Impact Arena Muang Thong Thani on March 3rd. Tickets cost Bt.3,500 each - book now as tickets are limited! We are also going back to the Impact Arena for the annual Disney-on-Ice show on Saturday 22nd March. We have booked the morning show, which has an English sound track, and again tickets are limited - Bt.1700 each.

On Saturday, February 9th, we are off to the excellent Chokchai Farm in Saraburi for the first time in three years. We have changed and augmented the programme to make it even better. Featured on this month's cover, this is one of the best attractions in Thailand for the whole family. This working dairy farm allows us to milk cows, ride ponies and horses, watch sheep dogs in action and even attempt to make our own ice cream. We then get to eat a delicious Farm Chokchai BBQ and eat more of their own UUM Chokchai fresh milk, yoghurt and ice cream. This is a great day back to nature for all the family. It's just like Hereford only warmer - and cleaner! Contact Barry or Khun Koy for further details.

Last month we took the staff to Satahip for the annual staff party. A great time was had by all and you can see a full write up of the event in the next issue of Outpost. In this issue, look out for write-ups on the Club's very first Polar Swim (page 32) and our new-look New Year's Cruise (page 30).



Welcome on board to Reed Passmore, who has joined the Club as our new Sports and Recreation Manager. I am sure you will see plenty of him around the poolside. Reed has lots of ideas and a range of new exciting activities are going to be taking place both at and outside the Club - see page 39 for more



Also, welcome back to Khun Weena who has rejoined us as our new Membership Manager. Weena is also a member of the Club in her own right. Located in the Membership Services office downstairs in the Clubhouse, Weena has lots of ideas and has already been busy with our recent catering and membership drive at the NIST School open day.



As you may know the Member-Get-Member Programme is still going - contact Khun Weena or Noi for full details. We have added yet more wines to the wine list in the Verandah! Wines of the Month are a range of French wines all priced at below Bt.950 a bottle and we even have our very first organic red on our wine list - and a very nice drop it is too!!

Regards,

Barry Osborne
General Manager

Special Events at the Club this month

** SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE BUFFET

Tuesday 5th February, Lunch & Dinner, The Verandah

Join us in The Verandah at lunch and dinner time for our extensive Pancake buffet. The cost of the buffet is Bt.280 Adults and Bt.180 Children under 12 years old. The buffet features pancake soup, baked pancakes, pancake fritters, curried pancakes, duck pancakes, strawberry pancakes, mango pancakes and lots lots more. Have a flipping good pancake day in the new Verandah Bar. To book, call direct to the Verandah Bar.

** MONTHLY BALUT TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, 6th February, 7pm, Churchill Bar & Silom Room

Played under Balut Section Tournament rules. Entry fee is 100 baht charged to your Club account. BC members who are not Section members are welcome to 'try' one Tournament and if they then wish to play each month they must join the section: annual fee 300 baht. All players who play six Tournaments in each year will be eligible to win the BCB Shield.

** CHILDREN'S RATATOUILLE PARTY

Friday, 8th February, 6-9pm, Suriwongse Room

Join us in the Suriwongse Room for our latest "NO Parents Allowed" Party for children to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The Party costs Bt.250 per child, which includes Fancy Dress Party (come dressed as your favourite character from the movie "Ratatouille" or as a Chinese character), kids' buffet, activities with Susie, followed by the movie "Ratatouille". No parents allowed - kids only. Susie will be making masks and costumes in her regular activities class on Sunday 3rd of February. Great fun for the kids and leaves parents with plenty of time to celebrate in the Verandah Bar at our Chinese New Year Buffet.

** CHINESE NEW YEAR BUFFET

Friday, 8th February, Lunch & Dinner, The Verandah

Join us in The Verandah at lunch and dinner time for our Chinese Buffet to celebrate Chinese New Year. We will also have Tsingtao Beer available on special offer. To book your table, please contact The Verandah direct or send a fax or Email to the Club. The cost of the buffet is Bt.250 per person.

** CHOKCHAI FARM VISIT

Saturday, 9th February

We are going back to the a-moo-sing amazing Chokchai Farm in Nakhon Ratchasima this Saturday 9th February. This is a great day back to nature and a fun-filled day out for the whole family. We have added on even more events this year. The cost is Bt.2,300 Adults and Bt.1,700 Children under 12 years, and includes transport from/to the Club, entrance to the Farm and the full private tour including milking of cows, pony rides, horse riding, feeding of cattle and deer and sheep dog show. Also included is the Chokchai BBQ lunch at the farm followed by making our own ice creams to eat there or bring home. There is even plenty of time for Mum to go shopping for delicious Chokchai Farm milk, yoghurts and ice creams to bring home, leaving dad with a bit of peace over a beer or two in the steakhouse. To stop the kids getting bored on the coach trip we will show some of their favorite Disney DVDs. Places are limited to 40, so please book now to avoid disappointment. See page 41 for more.

** MORSE VIDEO NIGHT

Thursday, 14th February, 7-8.30pm, Suriwongse Room

We continue our showing of the entire series of Inspector Morse this month with the fifth episode from Series Eight. There is no charge for this event but we ask members to please book in advance as this helps us with our seating arrangements. Full F&B service is available.

** QUIZ NIGHT

Tuesday, 19th February, 7.30pm, Suriwongse Room

As usual Bangkok's premier Quizmaster, Rodney Bain, will be asking four rounds of 19 questions (on a range of subjects from Asia to famous people - or their dogs) each ending in the dreaded "Common Denominator". Prizes go to First, Second, Third and 'Second to Last', and in addition, there are also three 'between round' questions where your team has the chance to win a bottle of wine sponsored by Crown Worldwide Relocations. So, get a team of friends (up to six) to come along and join in the fun - at least one Club member per team - or just pop along to see if we can fit you in. The cost to enter is 150 baht per person.

** ADDITIONAL BALUT TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, 20th February, 7pm, Churchill Bar & Silom Room

The Balut section will hold an extra tournament this month to help players reach the minimum Tournament requirements. Played under Balut Section Tournament rules. Entry fee is 100 baht charged to your Club account. BC members who are not Section members are welcome to 'try' one Tournament and if they then wish to play each month they must join the section: annual fee 300 baht. All players who play six Tournaments in each year will be eligible to win the BCB Shield.

** PRIME SUSPECT VIDEO NIGHT

Thursday, 21st February, 7-10.15pm, Suriwongse Room

This month we will show the sixth episode from the hit British detective series "Prime Suspect" starring Helen Mirren as Detective Jane Tennison. This series went on to run for seven seasons and won a number of BAFTA awards. There is no charge for this event but we ask members to please book in advance as this assists us with our seating arrangements. Full F&B service will be available. This episode lasts 3 hours and 15 minutes.

** LEAP YEAR 'O-LEAP-IC' GAMES PARTY FOR CHILDREN

Friday, 29th February, 6-9pm, Suriwongse Room

Let the kids celebrate leap year with our 'o-LEAP-ic' Games Party. Games include leap frog, sack races, bouncy castle and more. Khun Reed and his team have lots of fun games lined up for all. The cost of the Party is Bt.250 per child, which includes a buffet supper, all games and activities and specially designed British Club medals. Contact the Fitness Centre for further details.

** LEAP YEAR BUFFET PARTY & WINE TASTING

Friday, 29th February, 6-9pm, The Verandah

Join us in The Verandah from 6pm onwards for our Leap Year Pasta Buffet and Wine Tasting. We will also invite four companies along for a wine tasting on the back lawn and there will be live music as well. Leave your children to enjoy the kids' leap year party and enjoy a wine and/or good food with your friends in the new Verandah bar. To book your table call The Verandah direct or send a fax or email to the Club.



LIVE IN BANGKOK

Monday 3rd March 2008



Impact Arena
Muang Thong Thani

Cost @ Baht 3,500.-
Including transportation fee



Coach leaves from BC @ 6.30 pm.
Show starts @ 8.30 pm.

Book now at reception or
eventbooking@britishclubbangkok.org

BALUT - TOURNAMENT UPDATES

BRITISH CLUB BALUT SHIELD

The fifth BCB Balut Tournament was played with sadly only 10 members on January 2nd and the field was again dominated by one of our lady members ... Caroline Willbourn who achieved the single Highest Score of 124 and the Highest Aggregate Score of 562 - Caroline is also the leader (to date) in the BCB Balut Shield - many congratulations.

The **BCB Balut Shield** league now reads:

Rank	Player	Tournaments played	Average
1	Caroline Willbourn	3	102.0
2	Phil Alexander	5	98.3
3	Jeremy Watson	4	98.0
4	Bruce McLaren	1	97.2
5	Muntana Merrigan	2	97.1
6	Paul Cheesman	5	95.9
7	Simon Davies	1	95.0
8	Rohit Naheta	1	94.6
9	Toni Rodriguez	3	94.5
10	Steve Eaton	4	94.2
11	Christopher Poustie	4	93.4
12	Arun Gupta	2	93.2
13	John Boisclair	5	92.5
14	Steve Mallon	2	92.5
15	Paul Williams	1	92.0
16	Bob Merrigan	2	91.8
17	George Okrasa	3	91.3
18	Ben Willbourn	2	91.2
19	Roger Willbourn	3	90.6
20	Paul Mason	4	88.3

There was an Extra Tournament on January 16th and the Monthly Tournaments for February are FEBRUARY 6th and FEBRUARY 20th.

Balut section members are reminded that the **BCB BALUT SHIELD** will be awarded in September 2008 to the player with the best average over SIX TOURNAMENTS, or if the player has played more than six Tournaments then his/her BEST SIX TOURNAMENTS.

28th STC INTER-PORT TOURNAMENT

The British Club Bangkok has formally accepted the honour to host this on 21st and 22nd November 2008 - more details later in the year.

BRITISH CLUB BALUT CUP

The Inaugural British Club Bangkok Balut Cup will be held on Friday 29th February 2008 and is open to all to play. There will, in fact, be TWO Cups up for grabs....

The **BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK BALUT CUP** ... for the Balut Section winner


The **BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK ALL-COMERS BALUT CUP** ... for the guest, BCB non-Section member or overseas winner

The evening will be **BLACK TIE** or **NATIONAL DRESS**, and start at 6.30pm with cocktails in the Suriwongse Room.

Play begins at 7pm with four games ahead of a sumptuous five-course meal being prepared by the Club's Executive Chef, Khun Laak. There will be a choice of main courses and a specially prepared vegetarian five-course meal for those who prefer not to eat meat. There will, of course, be wine with the meal and free-flowing beer throughout.


The evening will conclude with the final Game of Balut at 9.30pm, leading to the presentation of both cups at or around 10pm. This leaves the remainder of the evening free for celebrating or commiserating and wondering what would have happened if you had gone for fours instead of trying for an inside straight.

The cost of the event is 2,000 Baht per player. Please book with Membership Services or by contacting a Balut Section Committee member.




THE INAUGURAL

BCB BALUT CUP



- 5-Game Tournament starting at 7pm
- BCB Balut Cup to Balut section winner
- BCB All-comers Balut Cup to visitors winner
- Five course meal with wine
- Black Tie or National Dress
- Free-flowing beer all evening from 6.30pm
- 2,000 Baht per entrant



Friday 29th February

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS The Verandah

6-10pm BEST OF BRITISH NIGHT – Order Cod (or Plakapong or Fish Cakes) & chips and receive a free half-pint of local draught beer or soft drink or a cup of tea or filter coffee.

TUESDAYS Churchill Bar

8:30pm-late Spoofing

The Verandah

4-6pm HIGH TEA – Small pot of filter coffee or tea with smoked salmon and cucumber sandwich, scone with jam & cream, mini-quiche and mini-meringue pie. Special price Bt.120.
6-10pm PIZZA NIGHT – Order a Pizza of your choice and receive a free half pint of local draught beer or soft drink or a cup of tea or filter coffee.

WEDNESDAYS The Verandah

Noon-2pm & 6-10pm THE MIDWEEK CARVERY – Choose from soup, two roasts carvery with potatoes & vegetables (Bt.250) and salad (Bt.285)

Churchill Bar

7pm and 8pm

PRESTIGE WINES ACCUMULATOR

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

7:30pm

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

THURSDAYS The Verandah

6-10pm BEST OF BRITISH NIGHT - Order a British Club home-made Pie & chips and receive a free half-pint of local draught beer or soft drink or a cup of tea or filter coffee.

FRIDAYS The Verandah

6-10pm THE FRIDAY BUFFET – Themed buffet.

Silom Sala

7pm and 9pm

'Kids' VDO - It's free. Includes free Nestle ice creams for the kids.

SATURDAYS The Verandah

4-6pm HIGH TEA – Small pot of filter coffee or tea with smoked salmon and cucumber sandwich, scone with jam & cream, mini-quiche and mini-meringue pie. Special price Bt.120.
6-7pm COCKTAILS HOUR – Sample Khun Boom's special cocktails.

SUNDAYS The Verandah

Noon-2pm & 6-10pm THE SUNDAY CARVERY – Choose from soup, cold cuts, three roasts carvery, with potatoes and veggies, hot dishes, children's buffet, fresh salad bar and a range of desserts. Adults Bt.350; children Bt.180 including free Coke/Sprite.

Silom Room

1-3pm

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

Suriwongse Room

3pm onwards

Bridge tournament (except last Sunday in the month)

Official Opening Times

The Verandah	11am - 11pm	Fitness Centre (Mon-Fri)	6am - 10pm
Churchill Bar	10am - 11pm	Fitness Centre (weekends)	6am - 9pm
Poolside Bar	7am - 10pm (last food orders - 9.30pm)	Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)	9am - 6pm

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SUSIE'S Kids Korner

Join me in
the Silom Room
every Sunday!

FARM ANIMAL THEME CRAFTS

Animal Puppet Pals



All you need to make a troupe of animal finger puppets are felt scraps, craft scissors, a few sewing bits n pieces, craft glue and permanent coloured markers.

For each puppet, first cut out a pair of 4cm x 7.5cm felt rectangles to serve as the front and back of the animal. Join the front to the back by gluing together the side and top edges. Leave the bottom edges open for a finger opening. Once the glue dries, use scissors to round the top of the puppet's head. Glue on googly eyes. Now it's time to add distinguishing animal traits.

MR. HORSE: For ears, cut out a pair of felt ovals (about 4cm long). Fold them in half lengthwise and glue together the lower edges. Glue the bases of the ears to the back of the puppet. Add a fringed forelock, white mane and rounded muzzle. Use a marker to draw jawlines and nostrils.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER: Cut out a triangular felt bird beak and glue it in place. Add plumage.

SPOTTED HEIFER: Make cow ears following the same steps used for the horse. Glue on a pink muzzle. Colour bold black spots on the ears and face.

PIG PAL: For floppy pig ears, use 5cm felt circles. Attach them as previously described for the horse. For pig cheeks and a snout, glue on 3cm felt circles.

WOOLLY LAMB: Attach ears horizontally to the front of the lamb. Glue a bit of cotton "wool" to the top of its head and draw on the face.

FROG FRIEND: Position googly eyes at the top of the head. Glue webbed frog feet to the front of the puppet.

Red Barn

Two cardboard boxes make a roomy stable for corralling toy animals.



Craft Materials:

- Craft knife
- Cardboard box, 38 x 45 x 52 cm (15 x 18 x 21 inches)
- Cardboard box, 20 x 20 x 32 (8 x 8 x 13 inches)
- Ruler and pencil
- Duct tape
- Extra cardboard
- Small paint roller
- Acrylic paints and brushes
- Paper fasteners

Time needed: Afternoon or Evening

1. Using the knife, cut a 10cm slit down each corner of the larger box (a parent's job). Fold the two 45cm sides in toward each other so that they form a peak (to make them fold in more easily, lightly score the folds on the outside of the box).
2. Holding the peak in place, raise up the other two flaps to meet the peak. Trace the peak shape on each side flap, then cut away the excess with the knife.
3. Make the ridgepole by cutting out a 4cm by 52cm inch strip of cardboard. Cut a small notch in the top centre of each side flap. Set one end of the ridgepole in each notch, then fold up the roof so it meets the ridgepole. Tape all the roof edges in place.
4. To make the left Dutch door, measure and mark a 15cm by 22cm rectangle that is at least 1 cm from the bottom and top of the front, and 2cm from the left edge. Cut along the top, right and bottom edges of the rectangle and also cut the door in half. Repeat, reversing the directions, for the right door. Score down the hinged edges on the inside of the box. (If you're using a different sized box, adjust the dimensions to your liking, but leave a 1cm sill above and below the door).
5. For a four-stall barn, cut doors on the opposite side as well. Cut a 5 x 7cm window on each side of the barn.
6. Make the stalls by cutting an 11cm x 45cm and an 11cm x 35cm piece of cardboard. Make a 5cm notch in the centre of each strip, then interlock them to form a cross. Slip the cross shape inside the barn. Use the roller to paint the barn and the roof; when dry, use the brush to paint on the trim.
7. To make the tack room (for keeping horse-riding equipment), fold in the peak of the small box and measure and cut the side flaps as for the barn. Tape in place - minus a ridgepole this time. Cut a door and windows. To attach the tack room to the barn, poke four small matching holes through one side wall of the tack room and one side wall of the barn. Slip a paper fastener through each hole and bend it to hold in place.

FARM ANIMAL JOKEES

What do you call a sleeping bull?

A bull-dozer

How do you fit more pigs on your farm?

Build a sty-scraper!

What did the farmer call the cow that had no milk?

An udder failure

What do you get from a pampered cow?

Spoiled milk

What do you get if you cross a cow with a camel?

Lumpy milkshakes!

What do you call a pig with no clothes on?

Streaky bacon

What is the easiest way to count a herd of cattle?

Use a cowculator!

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LOOKING BACK

Children's Christmas Parties





The Children's annual Christmas party took place here at the Club on the afternoon of Tuesday 18th of December and despite a slow start, over 250 kids, mums and dads attended the party. There were plenty of attractions lined up to keep the kids entertained including the giant slide, bouncy castle, pony rides, pottery making, kids gym, puppet show, magic show and lots more, leaving mum and dad plenty of time to relax with a drink or two. This year the new Verandah bar was open and allowed members and kids a space to cool off in the air-con.

The party lasted on the back lawn for over two hours and then everybody moved to the front lawn for a picnic supper of ice creams, carrot cakes, strawberries, chicken nuggets, pizzas and other delights. Santa arrived by tuk-tuk at around 5.30pm bearing gifts for all the kids – and if not for Santa's helpers he would surely have been swamped. The party officially wrapped up at 6pm but a few die hard families stayed on and had a few more drinks on the front lawn before heading off home...



LOOKING BACK

The next day saw a repeat performance, as we put on another Christmas party for our guests from the Suttisan School for the Deaf. Many thanks to the generosity of the St. Georges Society, the Ladies of the BWG and the Club staff who donated cash and gifts – and their time – to make this party happen. The kids had a marvellous time, as the photos show, and some even presented Santa and the helpers with hand-made cards and gifts. . . Now it's not often that Santa receives presents!



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LOOKING BACK



Christmas Quiz



It wasn't the rain that affected the Christmas Quiz on December 13th, but the holidays and general festive season busy-ness resulted in several no-shows. Nevertheless, six teams did make it to the final quiz night for 2007 and were greeted by a festive Suriwongse Room, complete with Santa's sleigh and grotto, and a Christmas tree, as well as some extra Christmas prizes. It was definitely the Spoofers night. They took out first place, two bottles of wine from Crown Worldwide Relocations, and beauty packages from Boots to boot!

Oh, and the scores:

1. Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers	133.5
2. Some Other Team	123.5
3. Trivia Mix	121
4. The Crown Southerners	106
5. Textile All Stars	101
6. Last But Not Least	86.5

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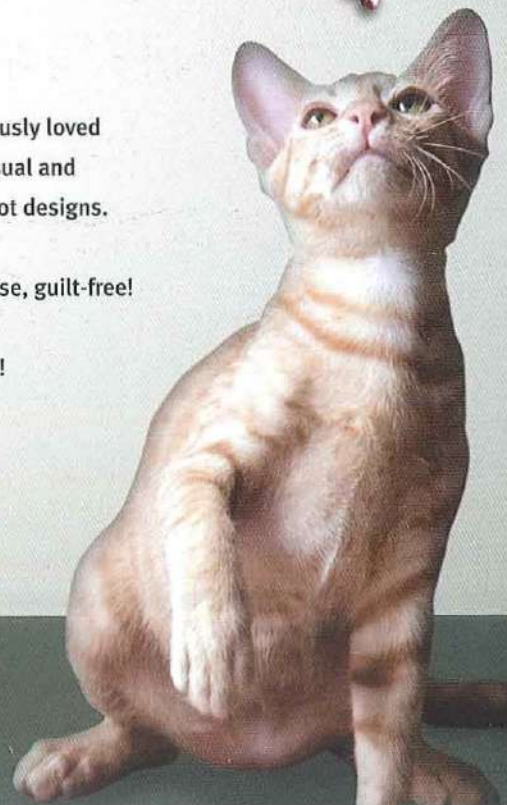
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LOOKING BACK



Christmas Day at the Club



It was a record turn-out for our Christmas Day celebrations at the Club with over 250 members and guests attending lunch and over 50 for dinner. The Churchill bar, Verandah and the back lawn were all full to capacity with excited kids and parents. The kitchen staff under the guidance of Khun Laak laid on an extensive buffet consisting of all the usual Christmas goodies. However the day before Christmas we had a bit of a hitch as the truck carrying the marquee broke down and they were unable to deliver until past 10pm, but we had 150 members to set up so many of the staff did not finish work until 3am and ended up sleeping at the Club as we had to be back in at 6am. The Club's kitchens stayed open all night rotating the baking of the turkeys, hams, mince pies and the steaming of the Christmas puddings. Not only did we have many to prepare for lunch but we also had 33 food pick up orders to prepare also.

Somehow we did it and Christmas Day dawned bright and sunny with everything ready for the first arrivals. Christmas music was wafting through the air giving a Christmas atmosphere even if it was rather warm, and to keep the kids entertained we had a walk-round magician, Susie's crafts and Christmas activities, and a magic show later in the afternoon. Santa Clause showed up at 2pm with presents for all the kids and the mums & dads also got a free Beer Lao or glass of house wine.

I would like to thank all the staff who worked long and hard to make this a Christmas to remember - many staff had no time for a break as Lunch continued into the afternoon as preparations for Dinner commenced. Also many thanks to the members who trusted us to cook their Christmas meal for them. I hope you all had a great Christmas. We even got a (very) advance booking for 13 for Christmas day next year!

Barry Osborne



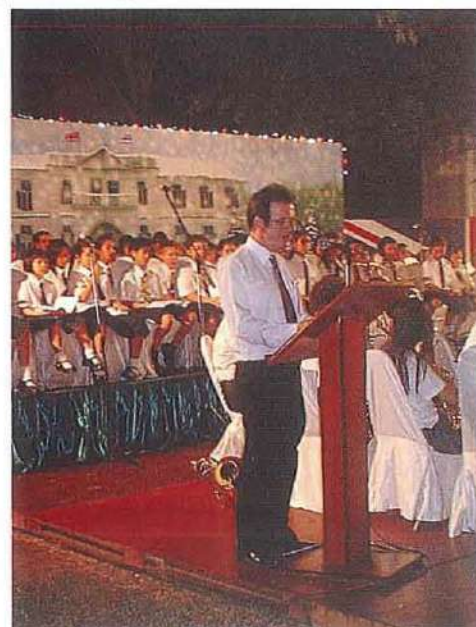
Carols on the Back Lawn

On the 12th of December the Club once again celebrated Christmas with a festival of carols and songs performed by Shrewsbury School under the guidance of musical maestro Darren Jones. The event was opened on the back lawn by Shrewsbury School Principal Mr. Stephen Holroyd and over 130 members and guests attended on what was another chilly night here in Bangkok. Mulled wine was just the order of the day and indeed over 40 glasses were consumed to keep us warm and soothe the vocal cords to assist us with our sing-along later.

It was a great night with hymns such as 'Once in Royal David's City', and the members singing along to 'O little town of Bethlehem' and 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. There were Christmas readings by CEO Michael Silcock and Sally Crossley Smith from the General Committee. Khun Laak prepared the BC mince pies, shortbread and our new apple & cranberry pies along with other goodies.

It was good to see many people staying on and enjoying being at the Club over this festive season. Many members and their guests enjoyed the new Verandah bar whilst the kids were able to play on the back lawn.

Barry Osborne



BC CALENDAR February – The Month at a Glance

Sunday

There are five hidden 'Remy Rats' in this edition of Outpost. If you're under 14 and you find them all, you could win a prize – see page three for details. HINT: They look like the one on page 26, but that one is not counted and neither is the one in this calendar!!

3

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

Poolside
11:30-3:00pm
Poolside BBQ

The Verandah
Noon-2:00pm,
6:00-10:00pm
**THE SUNDAY
CARVERY**

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

3:00-6:00pm
Cricket Practice

Suriwongse Room
3:00-6:30pm
Bridge Tournament

10

Poolside
11:30-3:00pm
Poolside BBQ

The Verandah
Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm
**THE SUNDAY
CARVERY**

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

4

9:00am-12noon
BWG Mahjong

6:00-10:00pm
Tennis Match Play

11

9:00am-12noon
BWG Mahjong

Monday

Tuesday



- Short Term Rental (daily, weekly, monthly)
- Long Term Rental
- Rental with Chauffeur
- Limousine Service

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5

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

9:00-10:30am
Ladies Tennis Clinic

10:00-11:00am
Aqua Aerobics

The Verandah
Noon-2:00pm,
6:00-10:00pm

**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE BUFFET**

7:00-9:00pm
Football Practice

Churchill Bar
8:30pm-late
Spoofing



12

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

9:00-10:30am
Ladies Tennis Clinic

10:00-11:00am
Aqua Aerobics

6

The Verandah
Noon-2:00pm,
6:00-10:00pm

**THE MIDWEEK
CARVERY**

5:00-6:30pm
Junior Tennis

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

Churchill Bar
7:00pm

**BALUT TOURNA-
MENT**

7:00 & 8:00pm
**PRESTIGE WINE
ACCUMULATOR**

7:30pm Bottle
Draw

Prestige Wine



13

The Verandah
Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm

**THE MIDWEEK
CARVERY**

5:00-6:30pm
Junior Tennis

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

Wednesday

Thursday

7

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

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

6:00-8:30pm
Cricket Practice

7:00-9:00pm
Rugby Practice

9:00-11:00pm
Hockey Practice

14

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

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

6:00-8:30pm
Cricket Practice

1

2:00-5:30pm
Junior Swimming
Classes

5:00-6:30pm
Junior Tennis

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

The Verandah
6:00-10:00pm
**THE FRIDAY
BUFFET**

Silom Sala
7:00-9:00pm
Kid's VDO

8

The Verandah
Noon-2:00pm
**CHINESE NEW
YEAR BUFFET**

2:00-5:30pm
Junior Swimming
Classes

5:00-6:30pm
Junior Tennis

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

The Verandah
6:00-10:00pm
**CHINESE NEW
YEAR BUFFET**

Suriwongse Room
6:00-9:00pm
**CHILDREN'S
RATATOUILLE
PARTY**



15

2:00-5:30pm
Junior Swimming
Classes

5:00-6:30pm
Junior Tennis

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

Friday

Saturday

2

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

9:30am-12noon
Cricket Practice

9

**CHOKCHAI FARM
VISIT**
Full day






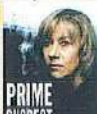




9:00am-2:00pm
Junior Swimming
Classes

9:30am-12noon
Cricket Practice

16

9:00am-2:00pm
Junior Swimming
Classes

3:00-6:00pm Cricket Practice Suriwongse Room 3:00-6:30pm Bridge Tournament	17 Poolside 11:30-3:00pm Poolside BBQ The Verandah Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm THE SUNDAY CARVERY	Silom Room 1:00-3:00pm Children's Activities 3:00-6:00pm Cricket Practice Suriwongse Room 3:00-6:30pm Bridge Tournament	24 Poolside 11:30-3:00pm Poolside BBQ The Verandah Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm THE SUNDAY CARVERY	Silom Room 1:00-3:00pm Children's Activities 3:00-6:00pm Cricket Practice
6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play	18 9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong	6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play	25 9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong	6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play
7:00-9:00pm Football Practice Churchill Bar 8:30pm-late Spoofing	19 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In 9:00-10:30am Ladies Tennis Clinic 10:00-11:00am Aqua Aerobics 	7:00-9:00pm Football Practice Suriwongse Room 7:30pm QUIZ NIGHT Churchill Bar 8:30pm-late Spoofing	26 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In 9:00-10:30am Ladies Tennis Clinic 10:00-11:00am Aqua Aerobics	7:00-9:00pm Football Practice Churchill Bar 8:30pm-late Spoofing
Churchill Bar 7:00 & 8:00pm PRESTIGE WINE ACCUMULATOR 7:30pm Bottle Draw 	20 The Verandah Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm THE MIDWEEK CARVERY 5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis 6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in	Churchill Bar 7:00pm EXTRA BALUT TOURNAMENT 7:00 & 8:00pm PRESTIGE WINE ACCUMULATOR 7:30pm Bottle Draw 	27 The Verandah Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm THE MIDWEEK CARVERY 5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis 6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in	Churchill Bar 7:00 & 8:00pm PRESTIGE WINE ACCUMULATOR 7:30pm Bottle Draw 
7:00-9:00pm Rugby Practice Suriwongse Room 7:00-8:30pm MORSE VIDEO NIGHT 9:00-11:00pm Hockey Practice 	21 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In 5:15-9:00pm Squash Mix-In 6:00-8:30pm Cricket Practice	7:00-9:00pm Rugby Practice Suriwongse Room 7:00-10:15pm PRIME SUSPECT VIDEO NIGHT 9:00-11:00pm Hockey Practice 	28 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-in 5:15-9:00pm Squash Mix-in 6:00-8:30pm Cricket Practice	7:00-9:00pm Rugby Practice 9:00-11:00pm Hockey Practice
The Verandah 6:00-10:00pm THE FRIDAY BUFFET Silom Sala 7:00-9:00pm Kid's VDO	22 2:00-5:30pm Junior Swimming Classes 5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis 6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in	The Verandah 6:00-10:00pm THE FRIDAY BUFFET Silom Sala 7:00-9:00pm Kid's VDO	29 2:00-5:30pm Junior Swimming Classes 5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis 6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in Suriwongse Room 6:00-9:00pm KIDS' LEAP YEAR 'O-LEAP-IC' GAMES PARTY 	The Verandah 6:00-9:00pm LEAP YEAR BUFFET PARTY & WINE TASTING Silom Sala 7:00-9:00pm Kid's VDO 
9:30am-12noon Cricket Practice	23 9:00am-2:00pm Junior Swimming Classes	9:30am-12noon Cricket Practice		

On the menu . . .

East meets West this month, with slightly spicy Thai prawns to start and the king of puddings for dessert!

February's Culinary highlights

***** Tuesday 5th February** - Get shriven and then come and join the Pancake Buffet for Shrove Tuesday in The Verandah, lunch & dinner - features baked, fried, and regular pancakes with truly amazing toppings, some with an oriental or Thai twist . . .

***** Friday 8th February** - Celebrate the Year of the Rat with a Chinese New Year buffet of Chinese food in The Verandah, lunch & dinner. And there's a children's RATatouille party in the evening as well (see page 9).

***** Friday 15th February** - For the night after Valentines, we'll have a special Valentines Menu.

***** Friday 29th February** - Join us in The Verandah from 6-9pm for our Leap Year Pasta Buffet, with live music - and Wine Tasting on the back lawn.



King of Pudding

Ingredients: (Serves 4-6)

4 eggs
565ml (1 pint) milk
115g (4oz) fine breadcrumbs
225g (8oz) sugar
4 tbs. mixed berries jam

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 150°C (300°F) gas
2. Separate 3 of the eggs. Put the yolks into a bowl with the remaining whole egg and beat together. Add the milk, breadcrumbs and 85g (3oz) of the sugar.
3. Put the jam on the bottom of a pie dish and spread it evenly. Pour the custardy egg and milk mixture over the jam. Bake in your preheated oven for 1 hour or until set.
4. Whisk the remaining 3 egg whites until stiff, then slowly add the remaining sugar until it is all mixed in. Pile it on top of the custard, then bake in the oven for a further 15-20 minutes until the meringue is set and lightly browned.



February Fruit Fiesta

Lychee Smoothie

Ingredients

4 pcs Lychee
2 oz Syrup
1 oz Fresh Milk
Crushed ice

Method: Put all ingredients in blender.
Blend until slushy
Pour into glass and serve.



Fruit punch

Ingredients

1 oz Fresh lemon juice
2 oz Pineapple juice
2 oz Fresh orange juice
½ oz Grenadine syrup

Method:

Shake well all ingredients, pour into glass and serve.



Choo Chee Goong



Ingredients:

500 g. prawns, or scallops; or a Combination of the two
250 g. fresh mushrooms (straw or button), cut in quarters
1 cup coconut cream,
4-8 Thai Dragon chilies or 5 red Serrano peppers, chopped
3-10 dried red chilies (adjust number to taste), soaked to soften, then chopped
1 head garlic, or about 12-15 cloves, minced
6 shallots, chopped
2 tsp. shrimp paste
1 tbs. peanut oil (for precooking fresh mushrooms)
2-3 tbs. fish sauce (nām plah), or to taste
1-2 tsp. palm sugar, or to taste
10 small kaffir lime leaves, finely slivered
A few sprigs of cilantro for garnish

Directions:

1. Shell the prawns, de-vein, and butterfly.
2. Place them in a bowl and add a teaspoon of sea salt and a little ice water to cover. Mix well, massage the shrimp a bit with your finger tips as this allows the ice cold salt water to refresh the shrimps, and set aside 15-20 minutes. Rinse shrimp a few times with running water to wash off all the salt. Drain well.
3. Make a well-blended paste out of the ingredients: fresh red peppers, shrimp paste, garlic, shallots, dried chilies, - either by pounding ingredients with a mortar and pestle, or by processing them in a blender or food processor.
4. Prepare the other ingredients as listed.
5. Heat your wok over a medium-high heat, and add a tablespoon of peanut oil. Toss in the mushrooms and stir-fry over medium-high heat until they begin to change colour. Splash with a little fish sauce to salt and cook until mushrooms have just softened. Remove from wok.
6. Spoon a cup of coconut cream from the top of a can of coconut milk into the wok and heat over high heat. Reduce the cream for a few minutes to thicken.
7. Stir in the chili paste and fry until fragrant and until the oil has clearly separated from the cream. Open a window if the fumes are too much!
8. Season with fish sauce and date palm sugar. Reduce until the mixture is very thick before adding the prawns and/or scallops and slivered kaffir lime leaves, as you don't want to overcook the shellfish. Stir-fry over medium-high heat until the prawns and or scallops are nearly cooked.
9. Add back in your previously cooked mushrooms, stirring well to thoroughly heat and blend ingredients.
10. Place in a shallow serving dish and garnish with a few sprigs of cilantro. Serve hot with steamed jasmine rice. Sometimes we serve this with steamed broken Jasmine (Hom Mali Thai or new crop jasmine rice).

CHILDREN'S RATATOUILLE

CHINESE NEW YEAR PARTY

FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2008

SURAWONGSE ROOM

6PM.-9PM.

Includes Fancy Dress Party, come dressed as your favourite character from the movie "Ratatouille" or as a Chinese character, Kids buffet, activities with Susie followed by the movie "Ratatouille"

Cost @ Baht 250.--/Kids

"NO PARENTS ALLOWED"



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What a ball!

The third Children's Ball took place here at the Club on Friday the 14th of December and was bigger than usual with 67 children attending. Many thanks must go to club member Irene Gray who helped promote this event in a big way and brought along 45 kids from Patana School.

We started the Ball as a way of catering for the children who felt they were too old to join in the Club's children's Christmas party which is probably more for tiny tots. The Children's Ball is based around our Club's annual ball for the older members! Pre-dinner canapés and mocktails were served on the front lawn and at 7 o'clock the doors were opened to the Suriwongse room, which had been beautifully decorated by the Club's staff and looked magnificent.

The kids soon tucked into a full Christmas dinner of roast turkey, baked ham, chips & mash, followed by mini banana splits and/or pears and chocolate ice cream. Before the party began a table plan had been arranged but the kids had other ideas and just trashed the plan and sat where they liked, sharing seats and even cutlery if necessary!!

After dinner the first game organized by Khun Susie and her team was to push all the tables and chairs to the side of the room to make way for the dance floor and then the party proper began! The disco proved a big hit, with kids dancing away to Kylie, Britney, Tata and Madonna - much to my amazement even the boys joined in. The Clubhouse was definitely filled with 'resonance' that night and the kids had a blast playing in all rooms of the Clubhouse and out on the front lawn as well - but who cares? It was Christmas and they all had fun - even better, mums and dads were banished from the Ball. . .

Santa made an appearance and was nearly mobbed at around 9 pm. When we first started the Ball, we wondered how Santa would be received as the older kids probably do not really believe in Santa any more. But we needn't have worried. They just thought <Hey, here is some old dude dressed in red and he has presents!!> After the visit by a rather young looking Santa who also received a nice present from the Club to enjoy along with his mince pies, the games and fun continued on until 10.30 pm. At the end all the staff were totally exhausted but the kids were still full of energy. Whilst the party was going on many members visited the new Verandah bar and enjoyed our Christmas menu or our delicious curry buffet and treated themselves to our new range of affordable wines.

Barry Osborne





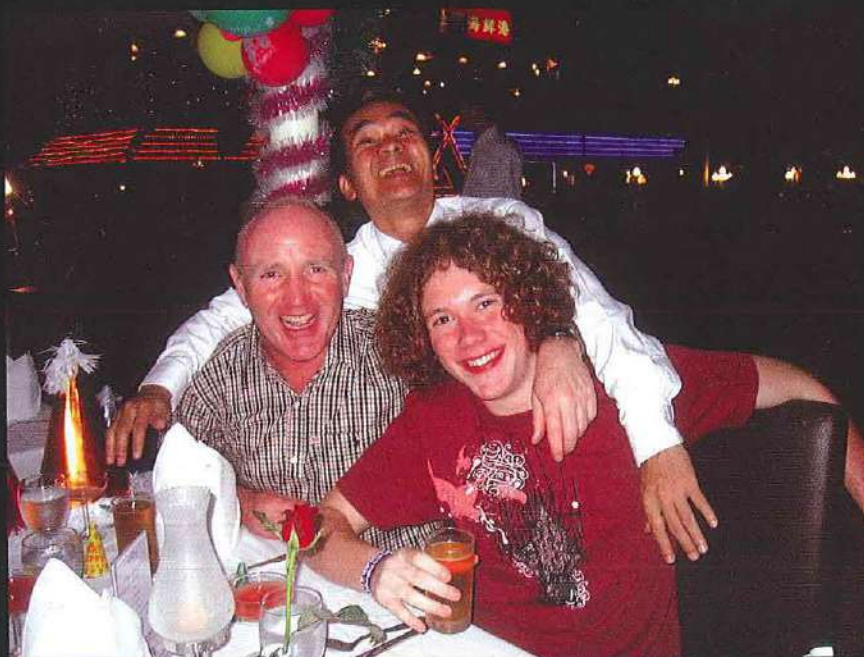
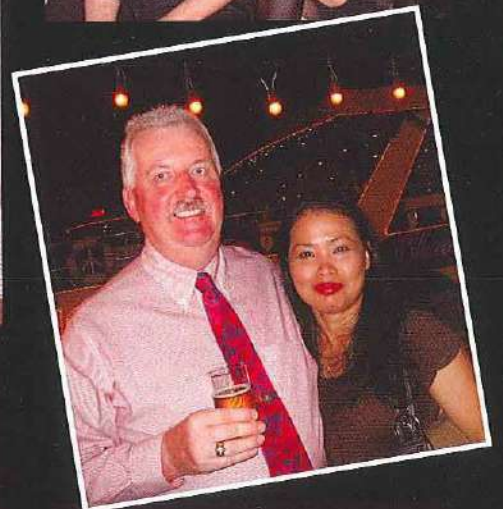


New Year's Eve with a Blast!



The New Year's cruise this year featured our new boat, the Chao Phraya Princess Number 3, which is probably the best boat on the River - and they also catered for us an excellent buffet dinner. One hundred and twenty members came along and we started off this year with a cocktail party at the restaurant, with an open bar for an hour, and then had a further open bar for two hours on the boat. Paul Jackson provided the entertainment with his excellent disco and had people up dancing all night long. The fireworks at midnight were as spectacular as ever.

The new-look cruise was a great success with members - especially as we managed to keep the price the same as last year - and we have 22 booked for next year's cruise already.



Recovery Day & Polar Swim



What a great way to welcome in the New Year - Great food, mulled wine, chocolate fondue and a truckload of ice.

The British Club hosted the first ever polar swim in Bangkok (that we know of!).

It was a fantastic turnout, with all-day breakfast for only 99 baht, mini swimming gala, Susie's arts & crafts, bouncy castle, DVDs and much more.

Over 100 people were poolside and many participated in the events, with some great prizes for the kids, including special 'penguin' chocolate bars and our very own BC Polar Swim medals, designed by Khun Koy. And many thanks to Coca Cola for sponsoring the super-cuddly polar bears.

The polar swim was a hit and will become a regular fixture at the British Club. Only 330-odd days until the next one!!!!

Next year's will be even bigger and better.

I would like to thank you all for a great day.

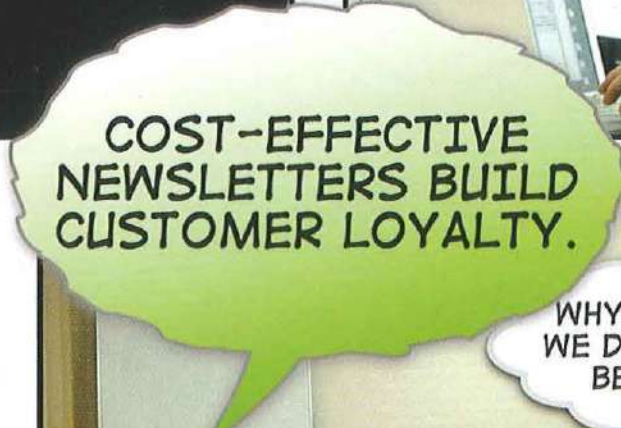
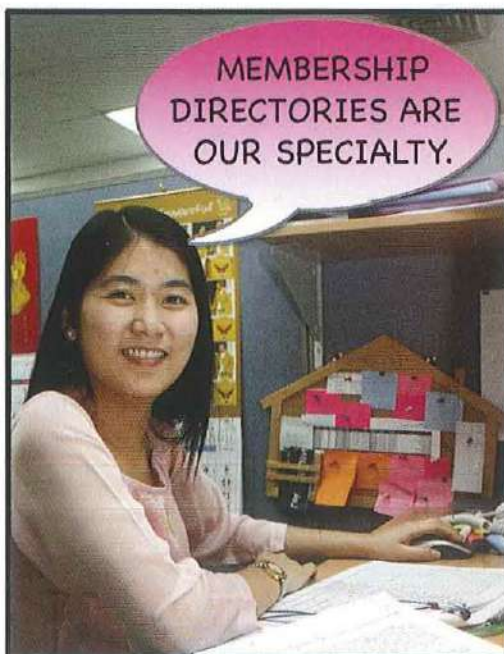
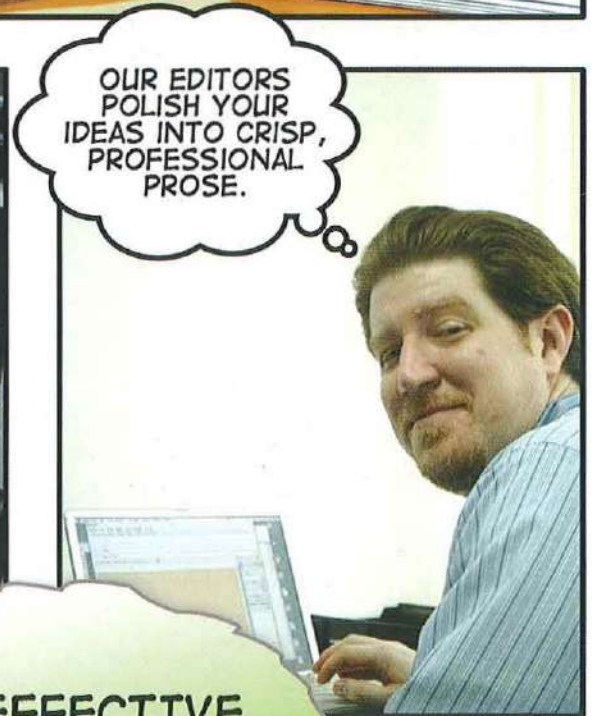
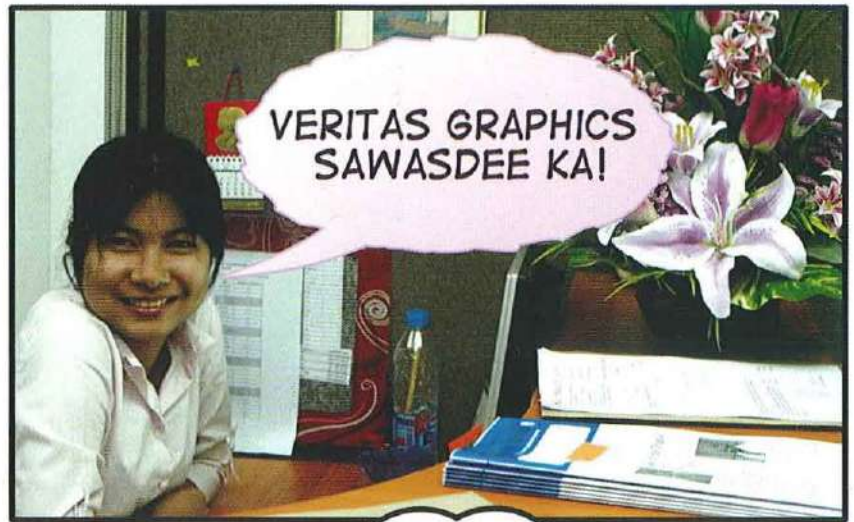
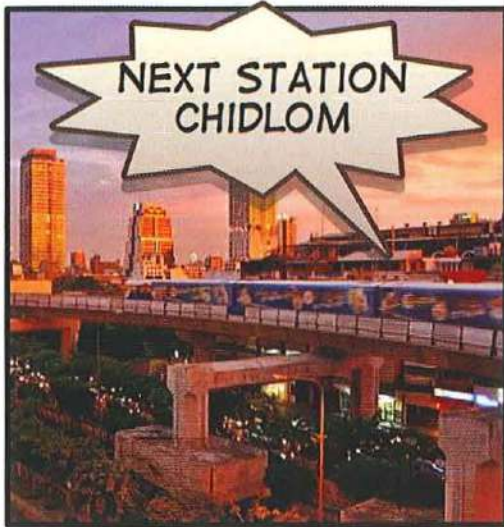
Happy 2008!

Reed Passmore





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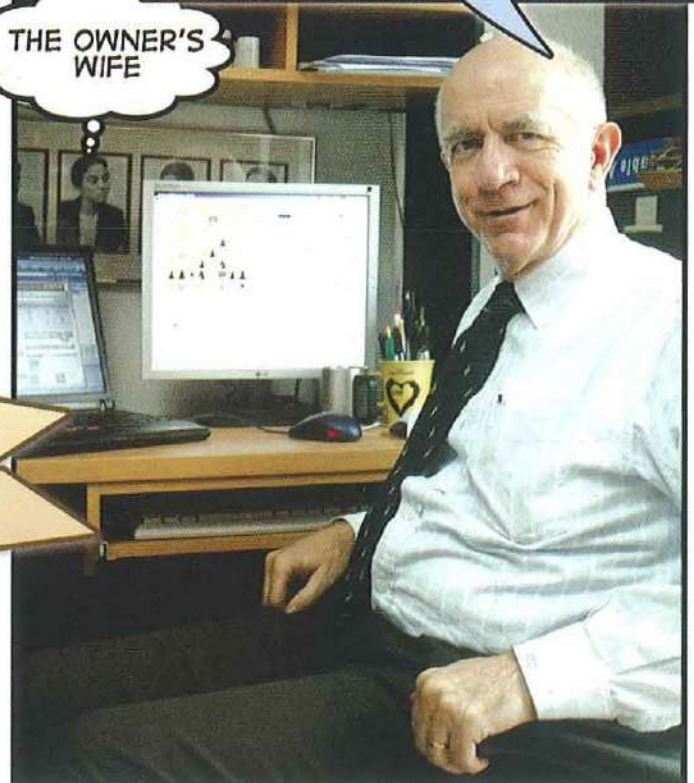
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As mentioned at the end of last month's golf report, Val has hung up her reporter's cap and I have been strong-armed into taking over. The bruises are just fading now. Many thanks to Val for all her work over the past 15 months and I hope I can live up to her chatty and informative style of reporting.

We welcomed two new members in December, Todd Guest and Ray Bloom and look forward to seeing them playing regularly with us.

Hassell Stableford

The last Hassell Stableford of the year was played at Kiarti Thane which is a fairly unforgiving course if you stray off the fairway. Near pins were won by Karen Holloway, Robert Gray, Bob Randle and Peter Gale, long drives by Yurachatr Brook and Robert Gray and the longest putt by Carole Ann Eastgate. The overall prize was won by David Lamb with a magnificent 41 points (and consequent handicap cut) from Maureen Gibson in second place with 37 points. Many thanks to our sponsor, Peter Skinner for the support this year.

Millward Brown Firefly Medal

The Royal Golf Course was, as usual, the venue for our last Medal of the year and the greens were extremely fast with three or even four putts in evidence. Gordon Milne was thanked by the captain and all those present for providing the sponsorship this year. Near pins were won by Peter Skinner, Ed Ashman, Ray Harries and Bryan Dodd, the long drives by Robert Gray and Karen Carter (a welcome return to form) and the longest putt by Val Ashman. In flight A, there were a number of players with

a net 73 score and, on count back, Ray Harries took the medal prize, Robert Gray came second and Gordon Milne was third. In flight B, the medal went to Dianne Bulow with net 70 (a great back nine contributed to this) with Val Ashman second and Harland Bulow third.

Fun Events

On the Sunday before Christmas we had a great day out at the Royal course again. Captain Peter and wife Belinda brought huge cool boxes of champagne, gin and tonics and packs of mince pies and other goodies which we took out on the course with us. We played a fun game of better ball stableford in pairs, with the added twist that, after playing our tee shots, we had to swap with our partner and play their ball for the rest of the hole. This resulted in most of us having some interesting shots from places we don't normally get to on the course. The scoring was competitive and Brian Brook and I won with 45 points with the Dodds' father and son team coming in second.



Gordon and Diane



Feeling little pain



Santa's little helpers



This reindeer looks happy



The Dodds' team

On New Year's Eve 18 or so hardy players went out early to Bangpakong Riverside to play our annual three clubs and a putter competition. The course was beautifully quiet but very windy, and the scoring was quite good given the limited club selection, which just shows us that we don't really need all that equipment. The overall prize was won by newcomer Ray Bloom, near pins went to the two Rays, with Ray Harries taking three and the aforementioned Ray B taking one. Barry Ashman had the longest putt, and the long drives were won by Peter Skinner and Cheryl Lamb.

Bangkok Golf League (formerly Price Waterhouse Golf League).

The British Club Lords team again participated in 2007 along with nine other teams of eight in this highly competitive event. After a very bright start, momentum was lost and we finished the season in mid-table. Karen Holloway has been the team captain for longer than she cares to admit, giving enthusiastic and popular leadership, but is standing down this year, to be replaced by Frank Fawkes.

The 2008 season starts in January and is played monthly over most of the year. All members of the British Club Golf Section are eligible to play in the league. Competition for places can be keen, but new players are welcome, especially when availability becomes an issue in the holiday season. If you are interested, and have not already been contacted, please let Frank know at frankfawkes@yahoo.co.uk.

Seara Sports Matchplay Competition

By the time you read this, the final matches will have been played but you will have to wait until next month to read the results.

BCGS AGM

On Sunday 24th February, we will be playing the monthly Medal at Royal and then return to the British Club to hold our annual AGM and prize giving followed by a buffet supper. All BCGS members are welcome to attend but please sign up beforehand.

The Captain, Peter Skinner together with Vice Captain, Gordon Milne and the rest of the BCGS committee would

like to wish everyone a successful 2008 with many birdies. We would love to see you on the course, please contact us if you would like to play.

Happy Golfing.
Jenny Harries

British Club Golf Section contact details

Website www.geocities.com/bcgolfsociety

Contact - Starter Maureen Gibson 089 017 2254

General Golf Tips

The R & A have announced a number of changes to the rules of the game for the period from 2008 to 2011.

While many are just a wording change to remove confusion there are a few significant changes including:

Rule 12-2 Identifying Ball. A player will now be permitted to lift a ball in a hazard for identification purposes only. Previously this was not allowed and there was no penalty for hitting a wrong ball in a hazard.

Rule 15-3 Hitting Wrong Ball. There is now a penalty of two strokes if a player hits a wrong ball in a hazard.

Rule 19-2 Ball in Motion deflected or stopped by Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment. Amended to reduce the penalty in both match play and stroke play to one stroke.

There are more rule changes, but the ones mentioned above are probably the most likely to arise. The changes regarding identifying a ball in a hazard should help to speed up play.

Many sites are available about the rules of golf and a particularly easy one to read is on the PGA tour website at www.pgatour.com/2007/r/10/31/rules/index.html

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Regular Sports, Games & Activities

Aqua Aerobics

Tuesday 10:00-11:00

Bridge

Sunday 3:00pm-6:30pm Tournament play in Suriwongse Room (except last Sunday of every month)

Cricket

Thursday 6:00-8:30pm Practice - Back lawn

Football

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

Hockey

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

Pipe Band

Monday 7:00-10:30pm Practice - upstairs Clubrooms
Wednesday 7:00-10:30pm Practice - upstairs Clubrooms

Rugby

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

Spoofing

Tuesday 8:30pm until late - Churchill Bar

Squash

Thursday 5:15-9:00pm Mix-in
And 1st Sunday of every month 10:30am-2:15pm

Swimming

Friday 2:00-5:30pm junior classes
Saturday 9:00am-2:00pm junior classes

Tennis

Match Play

Monday 6:00-10:00pm

Mix-in All Standards

Wednesday 6:00-10:00pm

Friday 6:00-10:00pm

Sunday 4:00-6:00pm

Ladies Mix-in

Tuesday 8:00-11:00am

Thursday 8:00-11:00am

Tennis Coaching

With Khun Pierre...

Friday 3:30-5:30pm: Junior tennis

(Contact Amnat or Rit in the Fitness Centre for more details)

Yoga

Sunday 2:30-3:30pm

Sports/Activities Price List

Aqua Aerobics

Bt 3,000 for 10 sessions

Cricket

Use of cricket nets - Bt 300 day/Bt 600 evening if lights needed

Massage

Thai massage/foot massage - Bt 250 per hourly session (except Mondays)

Squash

Private coaching with David Lines - Bt 700 for 1 hour

Squash courts

Bt 50 per 45 min

Swimming

Classes with B.C. - Bt 3,250 for 10 lessons

Tennis

Private coaching with Khun Jang - Bt 550/hour

Junior Tennis

Bt 5,500 for 10 lessons (Friday)

Tennis courts

Bt 30 per hour am/Bt 90 per hour pm

Tennis knockers

Hourly knocking sessions with - Khun Kaew (Bt 500), Khun Tom (Bt 400), Khun Choon (Bt 400), Khun Phon (Bt 300), Khun Champ (Bt 300)

Yoga

Bt 2,500/month for 10 sessions; drop-in Bt 300 per session

Sport & Fitness



with Reed Passmore

Dear Members

I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself to all the members. I have been fortunate enough to have met many of you around the British Club already. I have just started as the new Sports and Recreation Manager and I am looking forward to the numerous challenges and fun to be had.

It is an exciting time to join the Club with the current sports programs up and running and we are starting numerous programs and activities for all ages. I have had some useful input from many members requesting certain programs and giving me positive feedback.

January has been a great learning experience for me. The Polar Swim was a huge success and swimming lessons are starting late Jan. I am also putting together a comprehensive sports camp for February mid-term break (Feb 18th to 21st) which will promote 12 different sports. There will also be an "Introduction to Fitness" for all Fitness Centre members (1st Tuesday of every Month) which is designed to help members understand programming, training techniques, equipment and bring the members together. In addition we are looking at mountain bike tours for ½ day, 1 day and 2 days trips. If you are interested in any of the above please contact me.

I would like to thank all the members and staff who have made my first month at the British Club very enjoyable. Please feel free to introduce yourself or come into the Fitness Centre and say hello. I welcome all suggestions/comments.

Upcoming and Continuing Programs

- Swimming Lessons started on Jan 18th Fridays and Saturdays. Include an end of term swimming gala.
- Junior Cricket training every Saturday and Sunday mornings
- Fitball Courses on Mondays and Thursdays run by Khun Amnat
- Junior Sports Camp 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st Feb (midterm break)
- Fun Run - raise money for charity 16th March
- 6 Nations Rugby Nights
- Introduction to Fitness - first Tuesday of every month
- Football Parties & Pool Parties
- Bushwalking / Mountain Bike Rides around outer Bangkok & Kao Yai
- Individual Sports Get Together 7th Feb @ 6:30. This is for anyone interested in triathlons, marathons, adventure races or road riding.
- HK 7's Weekend March 28th 29th 30th March... tentative
- Personal Training and Squash Coaching is also available.

Reed Passmore

Sports and Recreation Manager

Attention all Ordinary & Country Members!

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 18th, 2008, 7:00 pm

**PLEASE RESERVE THIS IMPORTANT DATE
IN YOUR DIARIES
AND GET INVOLVED IN THE RUNNING
OF YOUR CLUB!**

We would like to give you plenty of notice that this year's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Suriwongse Room on Tuesday, March 18th at 7:00 pm. All Ordinary or Country members are urged to attend in order to consider and approve: the affairs of the Club, the Club Accounts, the Appointment of Auditors, and to elect a General Committee for the 2008/2009 term.

If you are eligible to vote, but cannot attend the meeting, you may give your proxy vote to another Ordinary or Country member. Proxy forms will be sent along with the official calling notice. Please note that each member may only hold one proxy vote. If you are not sure whether you are eligible to attend the meeting, please contact our CEO, Michael Silcock, or our Membership Department for clarification.

Please also note that members may nominate their spouse to attend the meeting and vote on their behalf, provided that they are paying subscriptions at the rate applicable to married members, and that the spouse is eligible for Ordinary or Country membership in their own right. If you wish to nominate your spouse, an application form must be sent to the Club at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. These forms will also be distributed to members along with the Official Notice.

General Committee Member Nominations

Please do consider contributing some of your time for the benefit of the Club and its members this year. If you would like more information regarding time commitment or responsibilities, please contact the Chairman, Stuart Blacksell, or any current General Committee member. 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 Strategy & Development, Food & Beverage, Treasury, House & Grounds, Communications, Constitution & Rules, etc. The basic ethos is that the General Committee determines policy while Management controls the daily operation of the Club.

If you do decide to stand for the GC, please ask our CEO for an application form. You will need a Proposer and Second, who are either Ordinary or Country members, to sign the form. Nominees can also stand from the floor during the AGM. However, we would like to circulate the list of candidates ahead of the meeting, so if possible please submit your application for the attention of our CEO, Michael Silcock, no later than Tuesday, March 11th, 2008.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

Double Diabolical Sudoku

Well, there are some seriously impressive *sudoku-sans* out there! Of the seven entries we received for last month's Sudoku Mania competition, *every single one* had successfully completed the "Diabolically Difficult" sudoku. So . . . we have decided to throw down the gauntlet again with a Double Diabolical sudoku competition. Each Sudoku has its own draw and for each a bottle of wine goes to the skilful – and lucky – winner.

Fax or deliver your completed sudoku/s to Barry Osborne as soon as possible after receiving *Outpost*. Entries must be received by the 10th of the month. The author of the first correct entry (for each Sudoku) drawn out of a hat will win a bottle of wine.

Last issue's SUDOKU MANIA WINNERS

The winner of the draw for the "Difficult" sudoku was Anton Bontje (B336).

The winner of the draw for the "Jolly Difficult" sudoku was Dr J P Dickson (D6) (and if there were a prize for the most unusual figure '8's, you would have won that as well!)

The winner of the draw for the "Diabolically Difficult" sudoku was Frank Fawkes (F155) (Any relation to Guy? Do you get asked that a lot?)

Congratulations to all the winners – and just a reminder that we at *Outpost* are always available to help you drink your wine, should you need assistance.

If you didn't get drawn this time, well, there's two more chances on this page . . .

Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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

Rating: 'Diabolically Difficult'

Solution times: You tell us! Write down your time Next to your completed puzzle(s) – be truthful now!

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

Rating: 'Diabolically Difficult'

Solution times: You tell us! Write down your time Next to your completed puzzle(s) – no fibbing!

We're going on a

Private VIP Chokchai Farm Tour

Saturday 9th February 2008

A day back to Nature in Nakhon-Ratchasima

Coaches leave at 7.45 am.

Activities include Farm tour with private English tour guide, Pony rides, Milking cows, Sheep dog show, BBQ lunch in the farm house with Chokchai steaks and Ice-cream and making our own ice-cream plus lots more !!

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Quote of the month:

“The serve was invented so the net could play.”

Bill Cosby.

THE MOST AND THE BEST

Performance Summary for 2007 Leagues

League matches for 2007 started last April, and by the time December 15th had rolled around, 56 competitors had played 502 matches and a stunning 6,525 games. Here's how things went, with special mention going to players in the following categories:

Most Matches Played : 21 by Philip M

- > Denis S.
- > Anton B.

Most Matches Won : 12 by Prasit Y.

- 11 by James Y.
- 10 by Nutt W.

Most Games Played : 277 by Anton B.

- > 266 by Denis S.
- > 246 by Nutt W.
- > 231 by Yubharet
- > 220 by Raquel

Most Games Won : 132 by Nutt W.

- > 125 by Anton B.
- > 110 by James Y.
- > 108 by Nisa Y.
- > Prasit Y.
- > 105 by Philip M.

Undefeated in 2007 (Matches) : 12 by Prasit Y.

- > 6 by Thanayut M.
- > 4 by Marcel P.
- > Pierre S.
- > 3 by Marc H.
- > 2 by Laurine D.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

COACH'S CORNER

By Marcel Petit

This month coach Marcel has more advice for the parents of children who want to play tournaments. Here's a list of DO'S AND DON'TS that you may want to keep for future reference as they are the foundations of good parenting ...and not only when it comes to sports.



DON'T

— **Increase your child's stress level with your own attitude.** Your body language, facial expressions and general attitude are visible to your child when he or she is on the court. Players are keenly aware of their environment and your child is no exception. If you are nervous and tense, your child will feel it, whereas if you are not, your calm face will be reassuring and will help him do his best.

— **Accept poor behaviour.** Throwing rackets, balls, hurling insults, screams, negative attitudes are NOT acceptable behaviour. All you have to do is let a few tantrums go without proper discipline and the behaviour becomes a habit that will be hard to break.

— **Set goals that are unrealistic.** If you set goals that are impossible for your child to reach, you may, in fact, be creating a psychological block. If he cannot achieve his desired goal, he will feel like a failure and his fear of competition will only increase.

— **Resort to irony or sarcasm to motivate your child.** Use words of encouragement and show respect and support for your child: this behaviour is the best way to motivate him.

DO

— **Be supportive during a match, but never intervene.** You can encourage and support your child without going overboard, but you must never intervene during the match or have any contact with the referee or line judges. You must refrain from coaching of any kind, be it technical or tactical.

— **Praise your child for good behaviour.** Regardless of the outcome, be it a win or a loss, don't hesitate to praise your child for his fighting spirit, his bravery, generosity and good sportsmanship. The important thing here is that he has done his best.

— **Stay positive after a loss because your role is to encourage him.** If he has done his best, try to emphasize the positive so that he can progress and go on to win the next match. Limit your comments to his behaviour and let his coach do the rest.

— **Respect his opponents and their families.** You should also shake his opponent's hand. He will follow your example. Maintain good relations with the parents of your child's opponents since you will be seeing them on a regular basis during tournaments – you might even become friends!



Next month,

we will discuss the following issues:

- Comparing your child's performances to his friends'
- Putting your child on a pedestal
- Making your child feel guilty about all the effort you're making for his sake
- How to maintain motivation while giving your child sufficient rest periods
- Quality over quantity in practice time on the court
- Realizing that your child's tennis is HIS responsibility
- Encouraging your child to participate in other sports
- Trusting your child's coach, help him but don't try to take his place

BRITISH CLUB & TENNIS SECTION HISTORY FROM 1953 - 1992

Warm thanks are due to **Roy Fordham**, a long time BC member and formerly keen tennis player who has been kind enough to set down below some of his memories of what went on both on and off the courts in those now far off days. However, the keen observer will readily recognize the many similarities with what goes on today.

Some things do indeed never change!

Period from 1953 to 1968

I joined the British Club as a country member in October 1953 and as a full member in 1955. It was a "mens' only" club in those days, restricted to members of UK origin. Women were not allowed in the club except as guests on special occasions. The Churchill Bar was the focal point and there was a large reading room, a two-table billiard room and a card room as bridge was very popular at that time. There was also a changing room equipped with two showers. A 9-pin bowling alley ran along the right hand side of the back lawn but was rarely used because of the hot weather. Ceiling fans were used throughout the club with air conditioning not being introduced for another 10 years. There were seven grass lawn tennis courts and three squash courts on the far side opposite the front lawn. There was no swimming pool, sala or restaurant on that side of the club and the tennis lawns were kept in immaculate condition.

Tennis was popular and booking was usually necessary

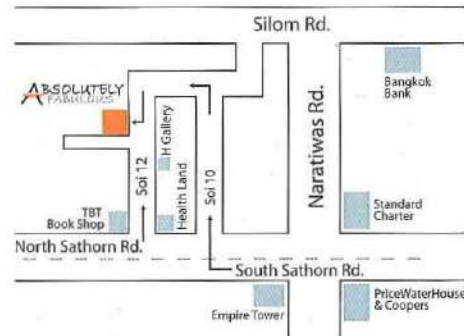
on weekends. Nets were not put up until 4 pm, as it was considered to be unhealthy to play in the heat of the day. This was the practice at all clubs at that time. As I recall there were about 50 tennis players at the BC when I joined and there were occasional round robin handicap tournaments and inter-company tournaments. (At that time the majority of the club membership was comprised of executives and employees of the various British Trading Companies that monopolized much of the import-export business during this period). There was also an Annual Men's Singles and Doubles Tournament played in November-December. No other tournaments or inter-club matches were arranged.

Balls and ball boys were provided for tournaments free of charge. On other occasions if ball boys were required they could be hired and paid for by the players.

There were no floodlights and there was no fee for use of the courts.

There were no field sports organized at the club in those days, but it was possible to join the Royal Bangkok Sports Club, where all popular sports were played including football, rugby, cricket, field hockey, tennis, squash, badminton etc., and it also had an 18-hole golf course and an Olympic size swimming pool. There were 18 lawn tennis courts, kept in perfect condition. The RBSC was very much an international club at the time, as no single nationality was allowed to exceed one third of the total membership and foreigners outnumbered Thais. I joined the RBSC in 1955 primarily to play rugby and tennis, but I always remained a member of the British Club, and played tennis frequently at both clubs.

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Squashy Bits

I'm just back at my desk after our trip Down Under for Christmas and New Year. Seems like there hasn't been a lot of squash over the holidays, but I'm sure everything will be back in full swing by the time this drops through your letter-box. In fact we will all just be off to Chiang Mai for a weekend of squash and cricket with a tour party of 34 already signed up including squashies, cricketers, spouses, attachments, supporters, and cheerleaders! That should be a good story next month!

Down Under

Da and I had a very nice time in New Zealand and bring back greetings to all from George, Vicky and Amelia who débuted in Outpost last month as a spelling mistake! (*His, not ours - BB*) Wellington is indeed a windy city but we had great weather most of the time and managed a bit of travel as well as baby-sitting. Our ambitious plan was to conquer Mount Taranaki but that was abandoned when we realised we had left our crampons and ice-picks back in Bangkok. We got about half-way up! No problems touring the geysers and thermal pools of Rotorua though ... a memorable holiday, rounded off perfectly by Amelia throwing up all over me just as we were about to leave for the airport.



George, Vicky & Amelia



Half-way up!



Grandma



Spelling mistake!

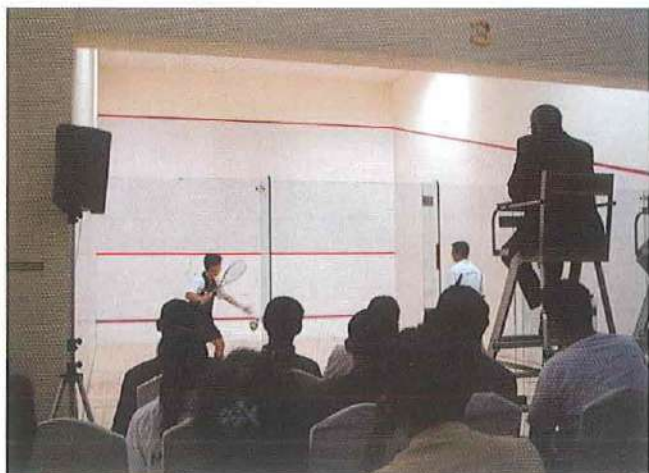
SEA Games

The only actual squash report I have is on the SEA games which were held at the Rajapruk Club from the 7th to 12th December. Peter Corney reports:

This was a very well organised tournament with David Lines participating as Thai National Coach and Peter Corney and Steve Tostevin serving as referees and markers. It was a very nice gesture that the Thai ladies, including our very own Khun Nan were involved in the proceedings even though their event was cancelled because only two teams entered.



Medal ceremony



SEA action



The Gallery

Quite a few BCB squashies braved the Bangkok expressways to watch some of the games and were treated to some very entertaining squash. They were soon aware of just how quick and skilful the top SEA games players are.

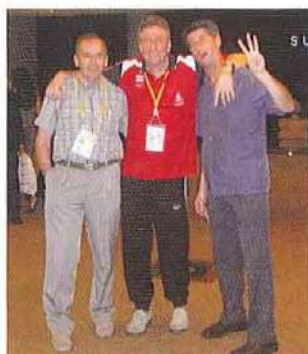
Thailand's #1 Chatchawin acquitted himself very well in the semi-final and could not have played better, but the top seeded Malaysian player was too experienced and used to playing at a higher level. His defeat earned him a bronze medal with the top two professional Malaysian players competing against each other in the final for the gold and silver.

The final was a fantastic game lasting more than an hour and a quarter, with both players demonstrating amazing control, reach and dexterity. The gap in standard with the level played in Thailand was all too apparent and there will definitely have to be some long term planning and investment in coaching and junior development if they want to close the gap.

Thanks Peter, David, Steve and Khun Nan. You are all doing a great job in supporting squash in Thailand and raising the standard.

League Winners: Congratulations to the winners of December League #226, Division 1 **Ja Chaturan**, 2 **John Vivian**, 3 **Peter Corney**

Happy Squashing.
Jack Dunford



Officials



Bronze for Win



The Thai Team

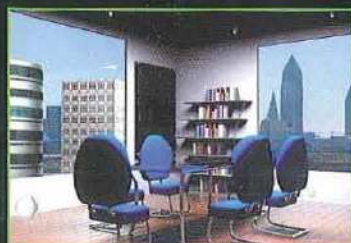
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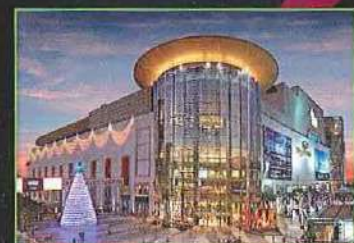
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December and January are normally quiet months for the Rugby Section but I am proud to report a friendly fixture, a three-day training camp in Rayong and some upcoming events planned at the Club. Our team was invited to play a friendly fixture against Ramkhamhaeng University on December 29 at Hua Mak Sports Centre. Further details of this game appear below.

There are a number of events planned this year with the Section's new initiative coming up during February and March. The Section plans to jointly, with our new sports manager Reed Passmore, organise a Touch Tournament in conjunction with the Six Nations Championship on Saturday February 2nd, Saturday March 8th and Saturday March 15th. Invited touch teams are welcome to play a friendly tournament before we screen the televised Six Nations Championship on the back lawn. All Club members with an interest in watching Six Nations Games in a friendly rugby environment while enjoying a barbeque and drinks, are very welcome to join. We will keep you posted on this matter!

Fixture Report

British Club vs. Ramkhamhaeng University Hua Mak Sports Centre, December 29, 2007

Although the weather was rather hot for the end of December and kick off was at noon, our team did well against this strong team. Ramkhamhaeng University has a strong reputation as a rugby playing university, as they select skilled players who are invited to play on a university undergraduate scholarship with the purpose of earning a Masters Degree while playing rugby.

In the first half, the Ramkhamhaeng structured attack saw the ball stay largely within the British Club's 22, but the British Club defence was too strong. Winger Ek from our Development Team opened the scoring with a convincing try to finish a well pieced together string of phases. Next was flanker Mark whose fierce running took him through a strong Ramkhamhaeng defence and over the goal line to score the British Club's second try.

Only at the beginning of the second half did the routine from the Ramkhamhaeng players start to pay off. Their flyhalf scored their first try with a well timed grubber kick that with a touch of luck bounced back into his hands to allow him to score. Toward the middle of the second half, the well playing Ramkhamhaeng side used its fitness advantage and was able to capitalize on British Club mistakes and score a second try. The last points in this thrilling match were a penalty kick awarded to Ramkhamhaeng right in front of the posts. Final score was a 13 to 10 win for Ramkhamhaeng University.

Training Camp in Rayong

Our Development Team spent three days in Rayong Province where Khun Maa, one of three Royal Thai Airforce Officers playing with us, organised a training camp with the purpose of strengthening their fitness and developing their rugby skills. The camp was held at an air force base in Rayong Province and our team was allowed to use the facilities free of charge. Organiser Khun Maa and Vice Captain Wai did a great job coaching our Development Team.

All in all it was quite a good rugby month for the British Club and hopefully we will improve our playing skills due to hard training.

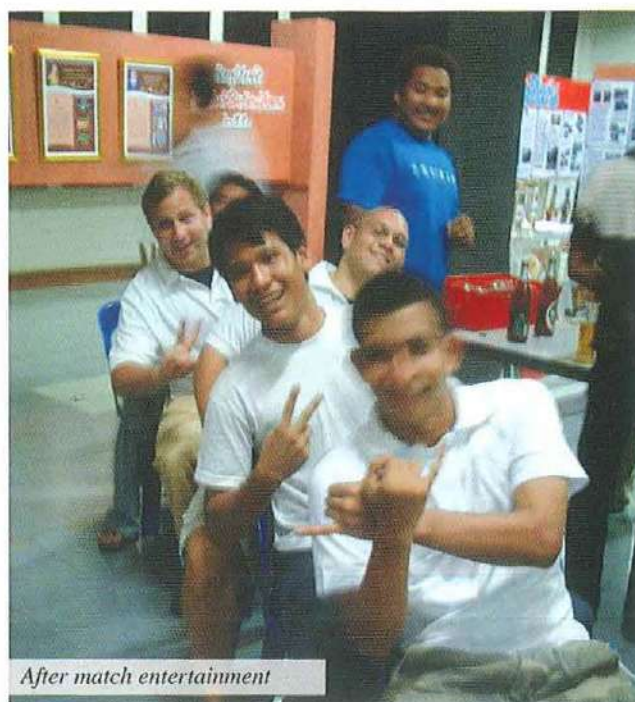
Magnus Andersson
Rugby Section Club Captain



On the way to training camp

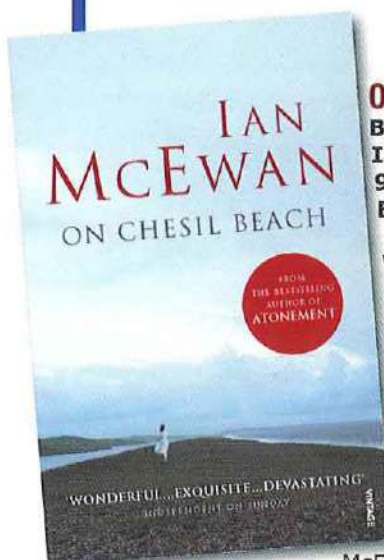


Scrumhalf Mac and Khun Maa



After match entertainment

Book Reviews



ON CHESIL BEACH

By Ian McEwan
ISBN: 9780099520825
Bt.375

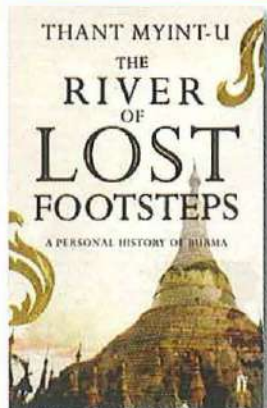
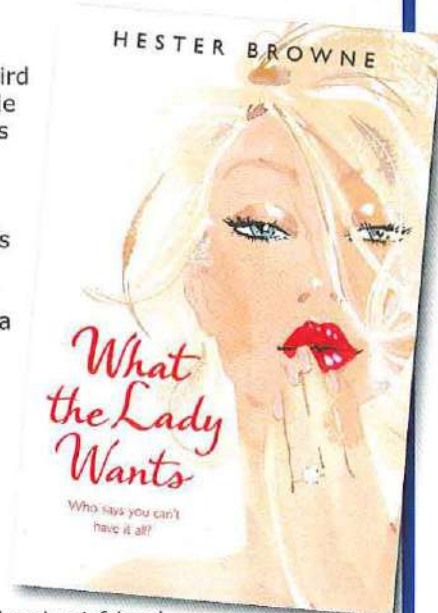
With the film adaptation of highly praised, Golden Globe winning, BAFTA nominated and probable Oscar contender "Atonement" coming to Thailand in February, it'll be hard to avoid

McEwan this year. Some reckoned "On Chesil Beach" was denied the 2007 Man Booker prize (the most prestigious literary award in the UK) because it was only an extended short story or novella. But there is no denying the sublime quality of his writing. Set at the beginning of the 1960s, a husband and wife fumble their way through a difficult sexual initiation on their wedding night. Edward and Florence come from very different backgrounds and barely know each other. What follows is an authentic, intensely poignant and affecting tale of the potential pitfalls of physical intimacy – it moved me to tears.

WHAT THE LADY WANTS

By Hester Browne
ISBN: 9780340937822
Bt.350 - 20% off in February, Bt.280

Melissa, Jonathan (her fiancé) and Nelson (her flatmate) return for the third in the warm and witty Little Lady Agency series. In this outing, her grandmother has asked her to take on the case of a lifetime: namely improving Europe's playboy prince, Nicolas of Hollenberg, who, despite his good breeding, hasn't a clue and is completely set on leading Melissa astray. And all this blue blood is making Jonathan finally see red. But this isn't all that's on Mel's plate. She's trying to set up Nelson with a nice girl; her increasingly-bonkers family are making all sorts of demands on her; her best friend Gabi is getting married and she has her own fairytale ending to find. Can Mel rise to the challenge of reforming Prince Charmless? Will the Little Lady Agency survive? And has her prince been there all along? This is funny, intelligent romance at its finest.



THE RIVER OF LOST FOOTSTEPS: A PERSONAL HISTORY OF BURMA

By Thant Myint-U
ISBN: 9780571217595
Bt.550 - 20% off in February, Bt.440

Thant Myint-U's maternal grandfather rose from being the schoolmaster of a small town in the Irrawaddy Delta to become the UN Secretary General in the 1960s. On his father's side he is descended from a long line of Burmese aristocrats and courtiers. By interweaving his own family's history with Burma's rise and decline in the modern world he tells a gripping story, by turns lyrical, dramatic and appalling. From the time of Portuguese pirates and renegade Mughal princes through the decades of British colonialism, the devastation of World War II and the longest running civil war anywhere in the world, he manages to make this much more personal and interesting than a straight-forward history. He is devastatingly critical of the present military regime but is also trenchant in his criticism of the policies of the international community toward Burma.

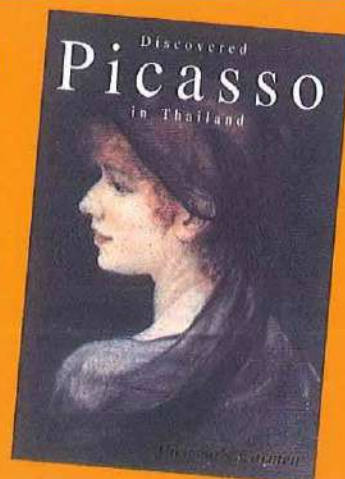
Editor's Note: This month's book reviews are generously provided by B2S bookstores



**A Missing Masterpiece in Thailand
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"Discovered Picasso in Thailand" is an intriguing art detection story. In 1983 Sittha Tianukrit was shown a beautiful painting on an old piece of cardboard. From the start he was fascinated by the quality and artistry of the image and he became convinced that the signature on the painting was that of Picasso. This book, in its luxurious presentation box, is a culmination of over 30 years of research that reveals the evidence to back up this theory and on the way places in an historical context the importance of the patronage of late 19th Century European Art by King Rama V and the Thai Royal family. Available exclusively at B2S in both Thai and English language versions, price Bt 1,890.00.

For more information please contact the B2S hotline on 02-101-7200 or visit www.b2s.co.th



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. Jenny Lamb & Todd Guest
2. Daniel & Lisa de Verteuil
3. Liz Voce-Jules & Pat Jules
4. Paul Allen
5. Jeremy Kerrich
6. Ruth Eades
7. Roger Rijnders
8. Pierre Sequier
9. Michael Keane
10. Peter & Lesley de Clerck
11. Niklas Mattson
12. Paul Johnson & Benjamas Senarit

and GOODBYES

Farewell and best wishes to . . .

1. Philip & Carole Sheridan
2. Brett & Kim Charlton
3. Michael & Clare Gaylard
4. David & Lena Romlin
5. Martin Carey & Angkana Srisuk
6. Andrew & Ruedee Vance
7. Paul Coulson
8. Simon & Teresa Oxley
9. Adrian Hicks
10. Manita Herman



World-Class Thai Executives Exist

by Al Lock

As a training professional here in Thailand for twelve years, I have dealt with a tremendous number of executives, both Thai and foreign. In the first few years, there were only a few "world-class" Thai top executives that I would meet. Many companies relied on expats to provide top management and to oversee their operations. A lot of the Thai nationals who were in senior positions were there because of their place in society, where they had gone to school, etc.

Now, I see a significantly different picture. There are a lot of really good, top Thai executives. I deal on a regular basis with are some of the sharpest business people I've ever known. Almost all are Thai.

What happened? After all, I've only been here twelve years. What occurred to make such a dramatic change, and to make it one that is so evident?

First, many of these executives were being developed when I first arrived here. They were getting training and mentoring, even though their superiors were not. And the best of them were aggressively seeking ways to get better, learning and applying lessons that were demonstrated in performance.

Second, for many organizations, performance is much more important than where someone went to school, and so they have learned to recruit, assess and promote based on performance. Metrics of various types are used to assess performance, rather than relying on degrees. It is no surprise that top-notch people rise to the top. One of the things I've observed over the years has been that businesses here seem to split into two clearly different styles. Traditional; which is good for people who want stability, clearly defined roles, long-term job security. Westernized; which is good for people who want challenges and opportunities, can handle pressure and want to be assessed on performance.

Third, Thais who went overseas to study for MBAs, etc. are making their impact at senior levels now. Although not all of the executives that I consider world-class studied overseas, many of them did, and the Thai educated ones are competing with those that did. The expansion of approaches and the increase in competitiveness have improved the quality of those who rise to the top.

Finally, maybe the biggest reason comes from the reduction in reliance on expatriates. Many companies have focused on reducing the number of expatriates for cost reasons. This has created a "succeed or fail" situation for some Thai executives, giving them an opportunity to shine brightly at the top of the local organization. There have also been failures, of course. But with increased opportunities, there have been an increased number of successes.



Editor's notes: Al Lock is the managing director of NLI Communication Ltd., a training consultancy that specializes in delivering custom-built communications and behavioral change training to corporate clients.

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www.nlicomm.com

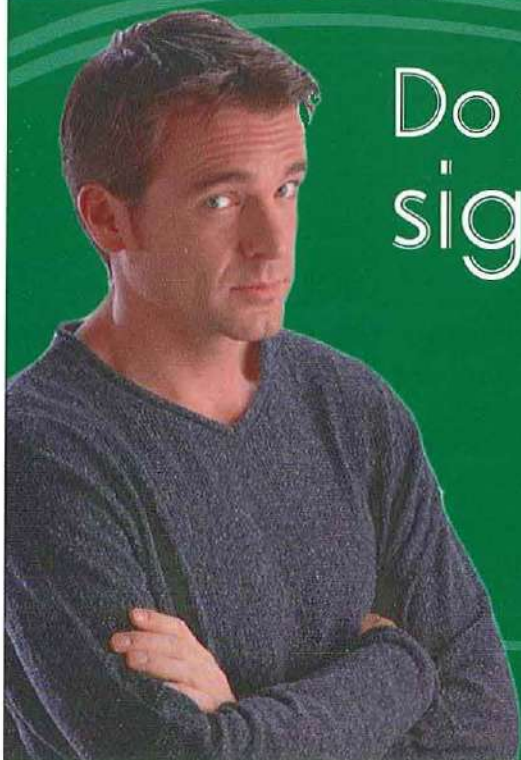


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