



THE BRITISH CLUB  
BANGKOK

The Magazine of the BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

# Outpost

February 2009



## Tennis Courts Grand Opening

H. Quinton Quayle & Paradorn Srichaphan open our new GreenSet Courts

20th STC Interport Balut Competition

Development Revisited

British Club Annual Ball

Christmas at the British Club

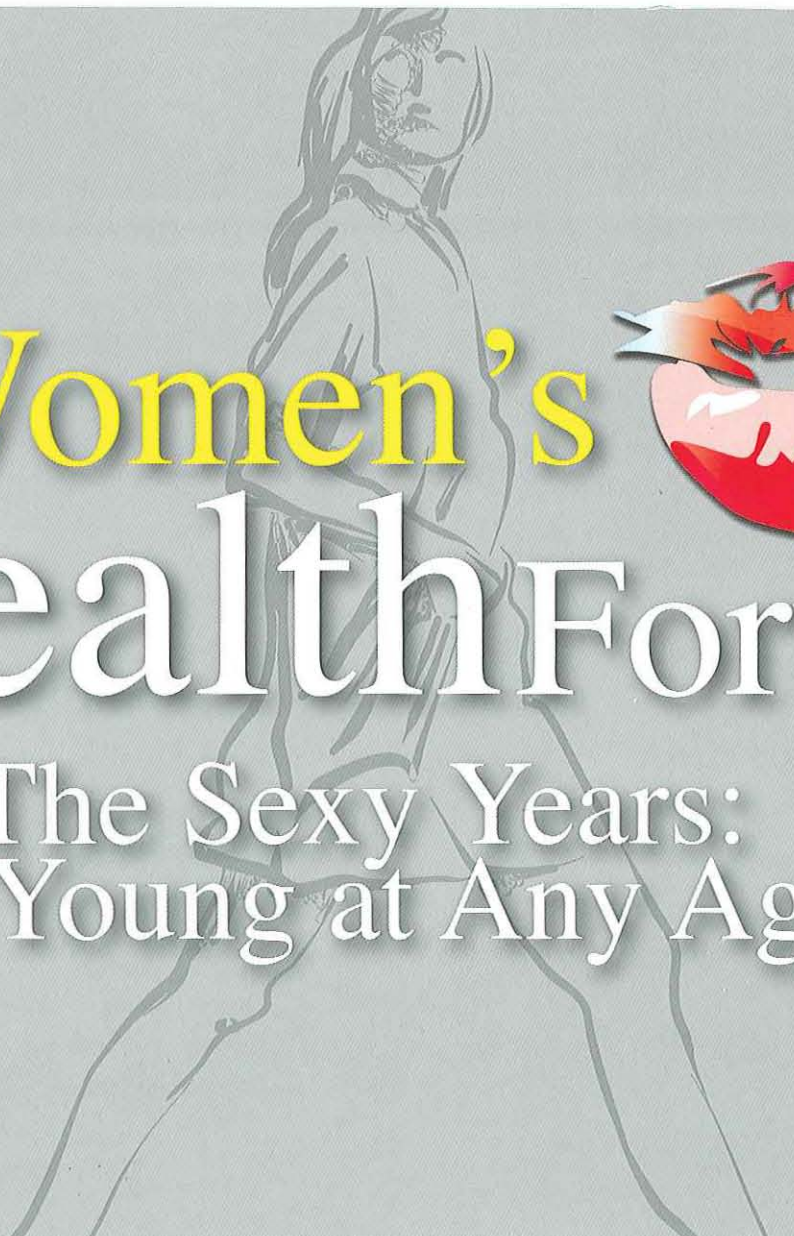
Pink & Black Ball

Flash & Golf

### IN THIS ISSUE

Journal.....	3
Club Spotlight.....	9
Barry's <b>ClubLife</b> .....	12
Calendars.....	16
Sports & Leisure.....	20
Baseline.....	28
Kid's Zone.....	29
Club Directory.....	30





# Women's Health Forum



“The Sexy Years:  
Young at Any Age”

**Tuesday, March 17, 10 a.m. – Noon**

Bumrungrad International, 12th Floor Conference Room

**Join Dr. Somboon as he gives valuable tips on keeping yourself looking and feeling your best!**

- Beauty – It's an Outside and Inside Job
- Rejuvenating Your Body
- Firming Up and Keeping Fit
- Diet is a Four-Letter Word

**Dr. Somboon** is the Medical Director of Vitallife Wellness Center at Bumrungrad Hospital. He is American Board-Certified in Anti-Aging Medicine and is the official speaker for The American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine Conference in Thailand. A graduate of Mahidol Faculty of Medicine specializing in OB/GYN and Family Medicine, Dr. Somboon headed the Menopause Clinic at Rajburi Hospital and started the Andropause Clinic there. His special interests are Anti-Aging Medicine, Hormone Replacement, and Chelation Therapy.

This is a complimentary seminar presented in English. It is open to all community organizations and the general public. Call to reserve your seat at 02 667 1320 or email [catherine@bumrungrad.com](mailto:catherine@bumrungrad.com). Book your seat early to avoid disappointment.



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THE BRITISH CLUB  
BANGKOK

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Outpost

# JOURNAL

*Capacity Building in Key Advocacy of the British Club Bangkok*

**F**IRST OF ALL, it is a great pleasure to introduce the new format, editorial approach and design of *Outpost*. It has taken some time to reinvent, and as Chairman and lead of communications issues, I take responsibility for that. During the first weeks of the year I was hospitalised with an on-going illness that will require surgery later in the year. This delayed my editorial and creative direction to the project, for which I unreservedly apologise.

I am in the process of enabling our great Club to sustainably publish its own magazine, a knowledge transfer step that not only will build capacity, but will mean that this magazine firmly serves the needs of the Club – first and foremost. The General Committee of the Club has taken this step in the firm belief that we, as an organisation, have reached a maturity whereby communications and marketing are not responsibilities to be disposed of, but embraced as key result areas. Over the years the advocacy and benefit messaging celebrating this Club largely remained within the boundaries of Silom 18. Only last year, after communications and marketing plans were formulated did additional copies of *Outpost* start to be systematically distributed to subscribers outside the Club. It is

perhaps no coincidence that in 2008, we addressed the membership slide for the first time in a number of years, we made a POSITIVE FIGURE in the membership column. Whilst membership challenges will intensify in 2009, we have the strategy and tools to meet them head on.

We have appointed a communications & marketing manager and have developed strategic business plans for both areas. We have already witnessed great mass media coverage of events at the club in 2009. We now have the facilities in-house to layout the magazine, and with it comes the capacity to upgrade our internal communications; the *Announcer*, official documents, our website, and what I will hope will be an internal TV channel that will render much of the paper usage for posters and our "What's on" board obsolete. We also have advertisers reaching our valuable audience and supporting the Club directly in its communications efforts.

IN THE PAST MONTH I have had the great honour of welcoming some distinguished guests to our Club. H.E. Quinton Quayle, British Ambassador, has been a frequent visitor to the Club and it was therefore an honour and pleasure to invite him to open our new *GreenSet* tennis courts on January 24th. Our other honoured guest that day, perhaps Thailand's greatest ever athlete, Paradorn Srichaphan, was on hand to simply wow the 80 guests with his charm, wit and world famous smile. As one of the most favourite players on the ATP tennis tour, it is easy to see why he has become one of Thailand's leading ambassadors both on and off the court. The day was rather perfectly complemented by a wonderful intra-club competition between Thailand and Rest of the World; the first of a new programme of events organised by our sports manager and lead tennis professional. At the heart of the Club, these magnificent new facilities offer the club yet another unique selling proposition.

**"In 2008, we made positive membership growth for the first time in many years; it says a great deal about the appeal of this unique Club in Bangkok"**

**Dr. Andrew D. Roberts**

*Chairman – General Committee 2008–9*

*Outpost* is the monthly publication of THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK, the international Club for friends and families in the heart of Bangkok. The magazine is issued on the 7th of each month and is distributed to 1500 subscribers in the Bangkok expatriate community. A full version of the magazine is also available online at [www.britishclubbangkok.org/outpost](http://www.britishclubbangkok.org/outpost). Opinions expressed need not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at time of press. *Outpost* welcomes contributions from members, please send them to the Communications Manager at the Club address (left). The Club reserves the right to edit all materials or decline publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the Club.





# GRAND OPENING

GreenSet Tennis Courts – 24 January 2009

With Jaguar and Harley Davidson providing the carriages for Quinton and Paradorn respectively, the marquee opening of our new tennis facility was a fun day for all, both on and off the courts



Paradorn was a massive hit with everybody, but especially with the Club's junior players. Some knocking with Paradorn and Quinton. Paradorn signed his name all day!

(Below) Quinton shows his tennis form!



H.E. Quinton Quayle, British Ambassador, and Paradorn Srichaphan unveil a brass plaque commemorating the opening of the new GreenSet acrylic courts.

(Below, right) Paradorn thrilled all with his tennis!







(Top, left) Members enjoyed a BBQ dinner.  
(Top, middle) Channel 9 TV at the Club.  
(Middle) A Thailand team won the inaugural intra-club tennis tournament, narrowly defeating "Rest of the World."  
(Above) Andrew, Quinton and Paradorn give a heads up to the Union Jack.

(Middle) Paradorn's carriage, a magnificent Harley Davidson, caused a considerable stir, and noise!  
(Above) Quinton Quayle provides Paradorn with some new headgear, hopefully to be for all to view when he returns to the ATP tennis tour!

"I am sure all members there on the day will join me in conveying thanks to both Paradorn and Quinton for being wonderful honourable guests and for being such great sports."

**Andrew Roberts**

*Chairman*



BRITISH CLUB  
tennis



# 28TH STC INTERPORT

## Balut

# COMPETITION



The Royal Brunei Yacht Club and their "hybrid" team receive the grand prize from BCB Balut Section Chairman Phil Alexander.

Member Clubs from around the south-east Asian region descended upon the British Club Bangkok in late November for the 28th STC Interport Balut Competition. This was the first time that the Interport had been held in Bangkok and was a fitting first event staged on the Club's new back lawn redevelopment.



ON 21ST-22ND NOVEMBER, the British Club Bangkok hosted the annual Interport Balut tournament, at which Clubs from around the south-east Asian region compete, principally those from Singapore and Malaysia. This was the first time that the Interport had been held in Bangkok and therefore we were determined to put on a good show and ensure that our guests both enjoyed themselves and wished to return at some point in the future. It is pleasing to report that this was most definitely achieved.

### BALUT SECTION

Under the guidance of Balut Section Chairman Phil Alexander, various Balut section members had been planning and preparing for this event since last March and it certainly all seemed to come together on the day. We were most fortunate that the weather was kind to us (the rains of the previous week did not return) and the PAD kindly agreed not to shut the airport until after most of our guests had returned to their home countries on the following Monday/Tuesday, although half-a-dozen Singaporeans did have an unexpectedly extended Bangkok holiday!

The welcome reception and Party on the Friday evening on the front lawn went off splendidly. The evening's guest of honour, Mr. Danny Puce (Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy), was piped to the podium by the Club's Pipe Band and declared the Games Open. We then all enjoyed some excellent fare and Sanuk until the late hours – with the Pipe Band returning for a much-acclaimed encore.

On the Saturday morning final registrations were dealt with and fortunately almost all the pre-booked teams seemed to have arrived: there were a total of eleven Clubs represented, with a total of 32 Teams (each of four players). We had about 100 competitors from abroad (together with a number of supporters), mostly from Singapore but also from Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei. After an excellent lunch, play commenced shortly after 1:00 pm and the eight games were finished on schedule by 5:30. Strict discipline was imposed by 'Headmaster'/MC Roger Willbourn, who meted out appropriate pun-







Runners-up in the team competition, British Club Team Two.





Runners-up in the team competition, British Club Team Two.





ishment when necessary to those who transgressed and incurred his wrath. Thanks to David Quine's ground-breaking web-based scoring software, and the hard work of Khun Prem's team from the Accounts Department, we knew the final results within about half-an-hour of the finish, much to the amazement of the assembled Baluters, who had never seen such an efficient scoring system in the previous 27 years of the Interport's existence.

The final event of the Tournament was the dinner and prize-giving in the evening, at which it became apparent that the British Club as hosts had done rather well...with our Members winning the Highest Individual Score, the Highest 'Doubles' Score and having the second Team overall out of the 32 competing. However, we didn't all cover ourselves in glory, as British Club Team One also achieved the Lowest Team Score overall! The Winning Team was the single entry from The Royal Brunei Yacht Club, which had 'borrowed' a couple of British Club members, since only two players were able to come from Brunei — so one could say that our Club achieved 50% of the first place as well. An additional 'trophy' presentation was made to Paul Cheesman, whose unflinching hard work over the previous nine months ensured that the Tournament was an outstanding success, as opposed to only a conventional success. All our overseas guests were heard to pass repeated remarks about how much fun they had had, how well organized we were and how much they were looking forward to a repeat visit: and no small

## 28TH STC INTERPORT *Balut* COMPETITION PRIZE WINNERS

### Lowest Individual Score Overall

Lee Kui Liam

*Sabah Golf & Country Club*

### Lowest Doubles Score Overall

Alice Tay & Tan Chan Heng

*Sarawak Club*

### Lowest Team Score Overall

British Club Bangkok Team One

### Highest Individual Score Overall — Runner-up

Raj Kumar

*Singapore Cricket Club*

### Highest Individual Score Overall — Champion

Bob Van Es [918]

*British Club Bangkok*

### Highest Individual Score in a Single Game

Arun Gupta [157]

*British Club Bangkok*

### Highest Doubles Score in a Single Game

Bob Van Es & Rit Van Es [279]

*British Club Bangkok*

### Highest Doubles Score Overall — Champion

Bob Van Es & Rit Van Es [1,735]

*British Club Bangkok*

### Highest Team Score in a Single Game

Singapore Cricket Club Team 3

### Second-placed Team Overall — Runners-up

British Club Bangkok Team Two

### Winner of the Interport Team Challenge Trophy

Royal Brunei Yacht Club

[This team included two players "lent" by the British Club Bangkok — Chris Poustie & Carlos Romero]



amount of the praise for achieving this is certainly down to Barry and his team for their superb service provision and to Khun Laak, whose cuisine over the two days was voted the best ever at an Interport. Sincere thanks indeed to all the Club staff who gave us such pride in hosting the event for our many guests, who came from some very prestigious Clubs in Singapore and Malaysia.

Well, the winners were from Brunei but the restrictions on alcohol-fuelled 'sanuk' in Brunei meant that they decided to nominate another Club to host the event next year — and so in November 2009 we shall all be off to the Sabah Golf & Country Club near Kota Kinabalu for another, no doubt superb, Interport Balut weekend.





# CLUB SPOTLIGHT

A new column developed to keep you in touch with news from inside the Club, including amongst other things staff rewards, workings of the General Committee, and musings from amongst the membership.

## GC MINUTES

I am often asked questions about General Committee meetings, i.e. what do we "get up to" during our formal monthly meetings. Basically the answer to this question is that we review the overall affairs of the Club from a tactical, strategic, policy-making standpoint. Yes, there are some operational areas to manage, and authorisations to give to our CEO. However, I have tried to move away from as many of the operational aspects of Club management as possible, entrusting them with our professional staff. The minutes of GC meetings can be reviewed in the *Minutes Book* at the Club. Salient points of the minutes are posted on the Club notice board once full minutes have been approved.

## AGM 2009

By now all members will have received the pre-calling notice for the March 17 AGM. As with most AGMs, there are a number of key issues to review and a new GC to elect. On the latter point, much is often written in the run-up to the election, asking for member participation in, what is essentially, the management of the Club. This year is probably no different, with one important provision. I firmly believe that we need to change our Constitution to elect GC members to the committee for at least a two-year term, possibly longer for members of the Executive Committee (who are elected by the Chairman). Best practices in committee-run organisations is an important concept, the benchmark for committee tenures is, I venture, two years, if not three. The beneficial effects on the Club will be several-fold. We have not had a competitive election for committee seats since the *infamous*, and most welcome, AGM held at the Narai Hotel. The number of candidates available for election – willing, able and qualified to stand – is not increasing. The way to address this problem is not by **RESERVING THE RIGHT** to remove a committee year-on-year, it is in changing the structure of the decision making process itself. By staggering the terms of elected members, five GC seats will become available each year, hopefully prompting solid competition for these seats. Candidates will be required to disclose their "platform" for election, which I believe should be their area of experience, expertise or specialisation. I firmly advocate differentiating the roles of the 10 GC seats, from "general" operational oversight roles to strategic policy platforms that are facilitated by senior or functional managers within the Club. This way there is a synergistic approach between professional staff and elected members with responsibilities and accountabilities for key areas within the Club being firmly understood.

## STAFF AWARDS

A final note for this month, the GC voted in November 2008 to extend the staff rewards to a monthly frequency. Award winners will appear in the *Outpost* **FACES** feature from next issue.

## NEW YEAR GREAT VALUE

**Michael Silcock**

*British Club CEO*

**T**he New Year has arrived seemingly ever so quickly and it only seems a short time ago that I was experiencing my first Christmas and New Year at the British Club Bangkok.

It has been a sometimes sombre and turbulent year for Thailand with the loss of Princess Galyani and with a succession of Prime Ministers, political protests culminating in the airport blockades for 8 days and now a new Government and another PM!

However most of us who live in Bangkok would not really want to be any where else and we all enjoy the easy going life style and friendliness shown by our Thai hosts.

This year is predicted by all to be a difficult one for many people but the Club's management team and staff are going about our planning for the coming year as usual, with a positive approach and intent to bring as much enjoyment to our Members as is possible. We hope that our Members will use the Club more because when compared to most hotels, pubs, restaurants and sports bars the Club offers so much more at a better price.

There have been some great achievements made by the British Club during 2008 where in an inflationary year we were able to keep our food costs at previous levels and only introduce one small price increase in mid-2008. Congratulations to Barry, Khun Prem, Executive chef Khun Laak and all our faithful and hard working staff once again.

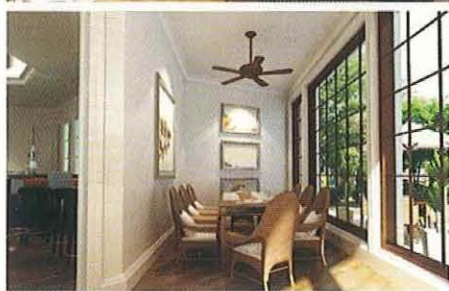
In addition the Back Lawn project has been very well received by all Members and the new tennis surfaces are being enjoyed by all tennis players. The Grand Opening of the 4 Greenset Courts in late January (see pages 8-9) were well received by the 80 or so Members who enjoyed the day.

I look forward to a happy and successful year for the Club and hope that many who have not frequented the Club as much in the last few years will recognise the fantastic value it offers to all members of the family, and use our facilities more often.

I look forward to seeing you all around the Club soon.







# DEVELOPMENT – REVISITED

*New Perspectives on The Churchill and Verandah*

**PETER HARPER** was recently commissioned to offer new designs for our cherished Club facilities and talks about his design concepts and what they will bring to members

Following designing the master plan and creating the original ideas for The Verandah and Churchill Bar, and seeing with some considerable dismay the current results, I was very pleased to be asked to work with the British Club once again to produce new concept designs. I think **GOOD DESIGN** for the British Club is about creating a range of places and experiences to make all members happy, from the very young to the older members.

## THE VERANDAH

The name evokes it all, sitting by the Verandah looking out over the lovely back lawn – cricket, a place for family, friends and children – from breakfast through lunch, to dinner. Light nutritious cuisine with a light natural interior.

The Verandah – for me – **BRINGING BACK THE FEELING OF THE OLD CHURCHILL BAR**. The bar located to the left, displaying wines, member bottles, and boutique beers. Near the bar frame, on the wall, a discrete high definition TV with bar height tables and chairs for people to sit.

Bring back those lovely sofa seating groups, natural rattan, cushions in soft

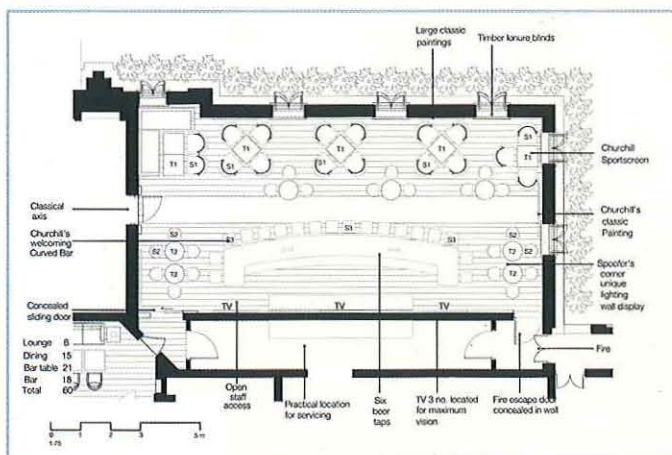
greens and creams; *bring the garden inside*. Create a quiet place to the right gallery area at floor level; create a window niche, good to sit by and look out to the garden, with lovely watercolour originals on the wall. In the evening, soft lighting side table lights with classical music in the background.

In the conservatory, open the windows to the floor with timber framing. Create two lounging seating groups and a Sunday dining niche all looking out onto the beautiful garden.

A concealed door leads to the kitchens behind, with the floor on the same level as the Churchill Bar, making access easier for all. Reuse existing equipment where we can, re-energise and refurbish, make more with less.

## CHURCHILL BAR

Churchill, the giant of a man....create a bar in his image and quintessentially British – strong, classic and urban. Build the bar on the same level as the foyer and with a concealed door to The Verandah for easy access for staff. Build the floor at a lower level in solid stained hardwood, with a central carpet runner in a rich warm colour. Create an original Churchill's curved bar, solid timber top, rich dark colour to allow you to sit with all your friends on comfortable refurbished



Proposed floor plan for a New Churchill Bar.



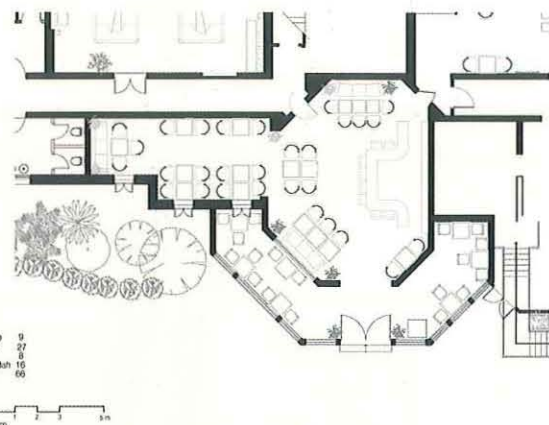


Figure 1: Original Churchill Bar

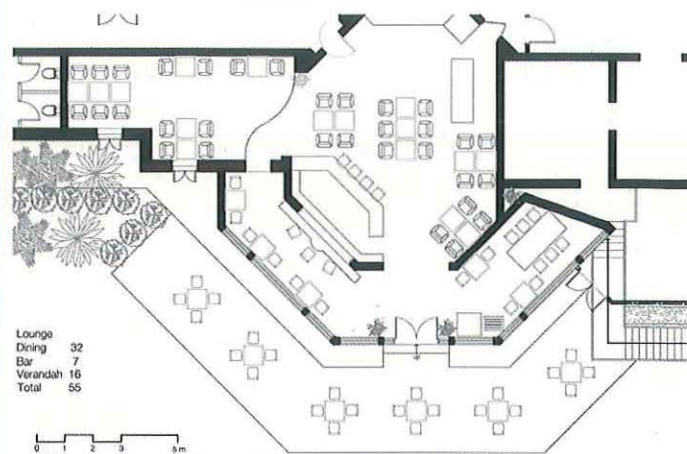


Figure 2: Current Verandah

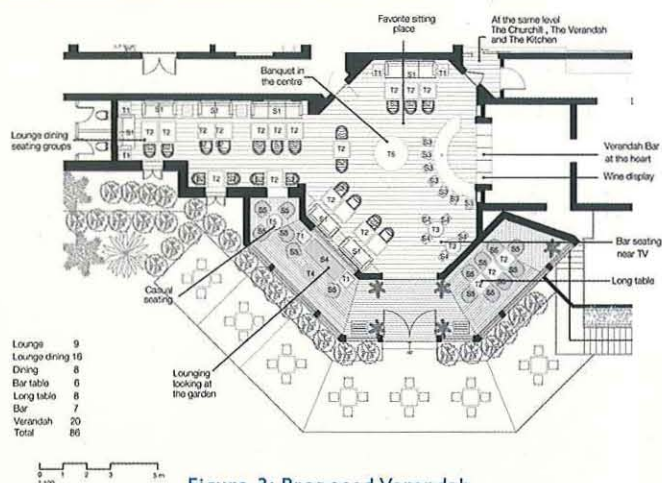


Figure 3: Proposed Verandah

Peter Harper presented these drawings to the General Committee back in November 2008. Whilst looking at them (Figures 1–3) one can appreciate:

- The great usage of space in both the former Churchill Bar and the proposed Verandah, especially the latter where seating would be increased by 30 pax on current covers;
- How many different environments have been created in the new facility, creating many ambience choices for all;
- How a new Verandah could effectively provide a fitting gateway to our new back lawn.



**“I hope these designs will be the starting point towards returning the Club to its rightful position as the premier place to meet, dine and drink in Bangkok whilst celebrating all that is classic at The British Club Bangkok.”**

chairs and to easily see three framed TVs. Provide easy staff access either end with a concealed fire exit door in the rear wall and rich timber panelling. For the big matches provide a pull down projection screen on the end wall. Create a rich warm panelled wall behind the bar and ceiling with glowing bottle niches in classic English rose colour. Refurbish the existing furniture, stain in a dark colour, with new classic dark brown leather.

Original large format oils of Churchill adorn the walls – an audience with the great man himself. To the inside

entrance wall, display the BC heraldic memorabilia. Plan the space classically, provide island bar tables for groups of friends to mingle and create a unique corner space for *The Spoofers*. Lighting is classic and concealed, glowing together with classic pendants. Windows are framed in dark timber Venetians, a classic warm Victorian colour scheme.

## THE PROCESS

Develop the concept with careful documentation, integration of services, lighting. **WORK WITH A QUALITY CONTRACTOR**, fabrication offsite, minimum loss of business and build the two projects quickly to **EXCEED** the members' expectations.

Finally, add in the wonderful British Club community! The Churchill and The Verandah – from morning to late – with members and friends quickly returning the investment and helping restore the BC to its rightful position as the premier place to meet, dine and drink in Bangkok.





## FINE DINING — EVENTS — MEMBER FUNCTIONS

Surfing the Internet back in June I, quite by chance, saw details of a light and sound show at Angkor Wat running from December until end of January 2009. I found an excellent small hotel in Siem Reap, contacted owner Khun Daramy and reserved 8 rooms not knowing that eventually, 23 members would join the tour; far surpassing my modest expectations.

After our short flight we arrived at the Day Inn and ate a excellent Khmer buffet luncheon. In the evening we met and drove towards the stunning Angkor Wat. Here in the shadows of the temple, surrounded by the trees we were treated to a delicious buffet dinner, with waiter service and a full bar. The amazing light and sound show followed with Angkor Wat as the awe-inspiring back drop.

The next day we set off from the hotel for the drive back to Angkor. We were lucky to have Khun Chamrong as our guide, he was very helpful and we spent 3 hours at the temple learning about the bass relief's and the history of the Angkor complex. After lunch we all set off to Angkor Thom and Bayon.

The day passed by pretty quickly and we arrived just in time for a happy hour drink in the hotel gardens before we set off in a convoy of Tuk Tuks for Pub Street, where we had dinner booked at the Khmer Family Kitchen.

The food there was great and members were soon enjoying the party atmosphere! At around 10pm most members made their way back to the hotel, but the hardy few followed me on to the *Dead Fish Pub*, where living crocodiles live on the premises — seriously! We stayed here a while drinking a few beers on what appeared to be a quiet evening. It was only when we were leaving and the staff found the key to unlock the door that it became apparent that we had been locked in without them realising!

## ANGKOR BALLOON RIDE

The next day we were once again on the road at 9am and headed off for the Angkor Air Balloon. All members were brave enough for the flight and we man-

# Barry's ClubLife

Barry Osborne



Barry Osborne lives eats and breathes the British Club Bangkok so what better way to know everything that is going on at the Club than to ask Baz. This month Barry tells you about the trip to Angkor Wat, the Annual British Club Ball, and Christmas at the Club



aged to go up within half a hour. After, we headed off to the Bantay Srey Temple and Pra Roup.

After lunch we headed off to the Magnificent Tonle Sap where we enjoyed a few hours on the lake enjoying the scenery and enjoying a glass of wine or two, afterwards it was a quick visit to Les Artisans Du Angkor to allow members a few minutes to do some shopping before heading off back to the hotel. Amazingly, every evening we managed to make it back to the hotel just in time for happy hour!

On the final evening members were free to enjoy themselves but 17 of us stayed at the hotel for the Khmer dinner and aspara show. It was Cambodian Independence Day so most places had a special party going on.

At around 10pm, a group of diehards made it back to Pub Street for a few beers at The Red Piano bar, The next day it was up early for breakfast with a check out at 11am ready for the flight back to Bangkok. All in all, I think the trip went well and everybody seemed to get on famously. After the trip I don't really know what I had been so nervous about as I really enjoyed it too!

A special thank you to the members who trusted me to take them away. Thank you also to Khun Daramy and staff at the Day Inn Hotel, Khun Chamrong our guide, Khun Sachdev Niraj (Member) for organising the tickets and especially to Khun Prem for helping me with the finances of the trip. Our next trip may well be to Luang Prabang. Will you be keen to join us?



# A BRITISH CLUB CHRISTMAS

## Kids Christmas Ball



### Kids Xmas Party

This year's Children's Christmas party welcomed over 230 people to an afternoon of giant slides, pony rides, a Christmas tree competition, puppet shows, and arts & crafts. Tea was served at 5pm on the front lawn followed by a visit from Santa at 5:30 with gifts for all the kids.

The following day we held a Christmas party for 97 kids from The Suttisan School for the Deaf. This event was sponsored by Steph Jones, Bangkok Women's Group (BWG), BNH Hospital, and both the St David's and St George's societies. Many thanks to all!



The festive season got off to a great start with our 4th Annual Christmas Ball for the Kids. Fifty children attended the event, which was of course **STRICTLY NO PARENTS ALLOWED**. The evening started off in the Wordsworth lounge with canapés and "mocktails." The kids eagerly tucked into chicken nuggets, sausage rolls and mini pizzas all washed down with Cranberry and Strawberry juice.

At around 7pm guests were ushered into the Suriwongse room, which had been beautifully decorated by Khun Awe and her team. Tables were laden with crackers, party poppers and other goodies. The Christmas feast featured roast turkey, chips, chipolata sausages, pears, bananas and chocolate ice cream.

Santa's disco was run by Khun Susie and her Staff who organised a series of games with Santa rounding proceedings off at around 9pm bearing gifts for all.

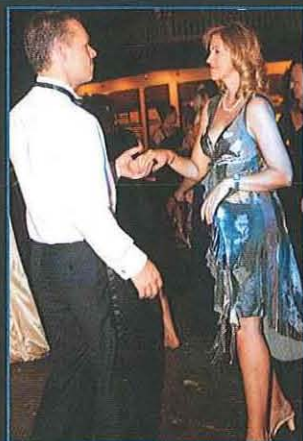
**"Many thanks to the ladies from the BWG who once again came along and helped ensure that the kids from Suttisan School had a party to remember."**



Santa thrilled the kids!







## ANNUAL BALL

*Barry Osborne on another great evening*



THE CLUB'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS Ball was held December 13th and got under way with a cocktail reception on the front lawn; guests were treated to an open bar and some delicious canapés. The Ball was once again catered by the Shangri-La hotel, preparations for which got underway as early as Friday night.

This was the first evening event held on the newly landscaped back lawn of the Club; everyone involved did a great job in making it look magnificent. On being ushered to the back garden, guests were entertained by Col Somkiat and the Thai Royal Army Band. The festive meal provided by the Shangri-La was once again really excellent; well done to Khun Achara and her staff for their sterling support and service throughout the whole evening (and morning).

The MC and DJ for the evening was once again DJ Paul Jackson, whose disco kept members dancing until past 3am in the morning. This year proved really difficult trying to get air tickets for the prize raffle, however we managed to secure a return ticket to the UK care of Jet Airways and two tickets to Siem Reap. All in all we gave away over 60 other prizes including accommodation at the Marriot Hua Hin, The Six Senses Resort Hua Hin, two nights accommodation in Angkor, dinner at The Shangri-La and lots more. Many thanks for all the sponsors who donated gifts and to H.E Quinton Quayle for making the raffle draw.

A full English breakfast was served at 2am and 80 members braved the early hours to devour some sumptuous (and healthy) fare. The Ball wrapped up shortly after 4am – a big thanks to the staff at the Club who, despite very little sleep, completely cleared both lawns by 10am the next day!

Many thanks to all the members who attended the event, and now we are working towards the 2009 ball to be held on December 12th.





THE BRITISH CLUB  
BANGKOK

# Christmas Day

## A TROPICAL CHRISTMAS



Christmas Day was once again a great day for the British Club Bangkok and its members, guests and staff.

More than 300 members attended the Christmas Day functions, held throughout the Club and on the new multi-purpose court on the back lawn. Khun Laak prepared the best of British traditional fare, whilst Santa kept the kids happy with gifts and festive cheer!



## THE BRITISH CLUB

# Balut CUP 2009

The second British Club Bangkok Balut Cup will be held on Saturday 28th February 2009 and is open to all to play.

## WELCOME TO THE BCB BALUT CUP 2009

As last year there will, in fact, be TWO Cups up for grabs....

The **BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK BALUT CUP**...for British Club members. The **BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK ALL-COMERS BALUT CUP**...for guests and overseas players.

The dress code this year will be **BLACK TIE, NATIONAL DRESS** or 'CASUAL AS YOU LIKE', and start at 6.30pm with free flowing beer 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 and for watching the 6-Nations matches which run all night!

The cost of the event is 1,500 Baht per player (discount for juniors) Please book direct to [paulc@true-mail.co.th](mailto:paulc@true-mail.co.th).



Cup Winner 2008  
Phil Alexander takes the Inaugural Balut Cup — can he defend his record?



JANUARY 2009  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

# February 2009

MARCH 2009  
S M T W T F S  
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29 30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> – Sunday Carvery (noon–2 pm The Verandah) – Simply Red Concert (Coach leaves 6.30 pm) – Junior Rugby Lessons 3 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> – Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) – BCB Balut Shield 7.05 pm – Social member football 6.30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> – Middle East Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) – Junior Swimming lessons 3–6 pm – Junior Tennis lessons 3–6 pm	<b>7</b> – Junior Swimming lessons 10 am–1 pm
<b>8</b> – Sunday Carvery (noon–2 pm The Verandah) – Junior Rugby Lessons 3 pm	<b>9</b> – Sport camp all day	<b>10</b> – Sport camp all day	<b>11</b> – Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) – Sport camp all day – Social member football 6.30 pm	<b>12</b> – Sport camp all day	<b>13</b> – Indonesian Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) – Movie Marathon @ SF Cinema (ticket office open 6 pm)	<b>14</b> – Chicago the Musical (Coach leave at 6.30 pm)
<b>15</b> – Sunday Carvery (noon–2 pm The Verandah) – Junior Rugby Lessons 3 pm	<b>16</b> – Mini sport camp all day	<b>17</b> – February Terley Smooth Bar quiz 7.30 pm – Mini sport camp all day	<b>18</b> – Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) – Mini sport camp – Social member football 6.30 pm	<b>19</b> – Mini sport camp all day	<b>20</b> – Mexican Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) – Mini sport camp all day	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> – Sunday Carvery (noon–2 pm The Verandah) – Junior Rugby Lessons 3 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> – Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) – Social member football 6.30 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> – Friday Curry Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) – Monthly wine tasting 6–9 pm – New members' night 6–9 pm – 20 years plus members gathering 6–9 pm – Junior Tennis lessons 3–6 pm	<b>28</b> – The BCB Balut Cup 6.30 pm – Junior Swimming Lessons 10 pm–1 pm



February 2009  
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April 2009  
S M T W T F S  
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26 27 28 29 30

# March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> – Welsh Sunday Carvery (noon–2 pm The Verandah) – Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> – Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) – Rod Stewart in concert – Social Member football 6.30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> – Jamie Oliver's Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) – Junior Swimming lessons 3–6 pm – Junior Tennis lessons 3–6 pm	<b>7</b> – Junior Swimming lessons 10 am–1 pm
<b>8</b> – Sunday Carvery (noon–2 pm The Verandah) – Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> – Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) – Social Member football 6.30 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> – Delia Smith's Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) – Junior Swimming lessons 3–6 pm – Junior Tennis lessons 3–6 pm	<b>14</b> – Junior Swimming lessons 10 am–1 pm
<b>15</b> – Sunday Carvery (noon–2 pm The Verandah) – Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> – Club AGM 7 pm – Bar Quiz 7.30 pm – Irish Green Buffet	<b>18</b> – Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) – Social Member football 6.30 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> – Gordon Ramsey's Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) – Junior Swimming lessons 3–6 pm – Junior Tennis lessons 3–6 pm	<b>21</b> – Junior Swimming lessons 10 am–1 pm
<b>22</b> – Sunday Carvery (noon–2 pm The Verandah) – Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> – Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) – Social Member football 6.30 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> – Nigella Lawson's Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) – Monthly Wine Tasting 6–9 pm – Junior Tennis lessons 3–6 pm	<b>28</b> – Disney on Ice: Princess Wishes (Coach leaves at 9.30 pm) – Junior Swimming Lessons 10 am–1 pm
<b>29</b> – Sunday Carvery (noon–2 pm The Verandah) – Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				





## THE PINK & BLACK BALL

This year's Pink and Black Ball once again dazzled attendees and left many of them, well...happy but rather worse for wear. British Club Rugby's Morcar McConnell explains all.



THIS YEAR'S PINK AND BLACK BALL, held at The Amari Watergate Hotel on the 11th October, was even more dazzling than last year's event. Many thanks to all of our sponsors; Air Astana for providing the prime prizes for the raffle, Manarco Recruitment for providing the cocktail reception, Jameson's the Irish Pub for providing all the beer. The Amari Watergate Hotel and David Cumming and staff for all their hard work and making the *Pink & Black* undoubtedly the best ball of the year and also generously contributing with prizes for the raffle. The secret behind the success of the ball PEPE LOPEZ, providing enough Tequila to turn the Ball into a storming party and getting everyone off their bums and on the dance floor. David Cumming's usual drinking games added a little competitive flair to the party and encouraged all to get even merrier, a huge thanks for the Bangkok Breakfast Circle for providing the full English buffet breakfast at night and last but not least

"Angus McKernan, last year's rugby chairman, kindly stepped in with the British Club Pipe Band and blew the crowds away with a glorious performance!"



many thanks to the 350 guests who attended this event and made it the great success it was.

The Amari Watergate's Hotel Band entertained during dinner, and they were accompanied by loud singing and dancing even during the dinner! Sadly our Chairman and Club Captain Magnus Andersson was stranded in Laos missing his flight home, his speech, and the bread rolls. Luckily Angus McKernan, last year's rugby chairman kindly stepped in with the bag pipe section and blew the crowds away with a glorious performance.

#### WINNING BIG

Our OH SO AMAZING ABAC ladies, not only can they cheer on the sidelines they also helped to extract a very healthy sum for the raffle tickets; thanks to our players for loaning the ABAC ladies to Morcar FOR THE NIGHT. There was



The Pink & Black Ball has not only cemented its place in the expat calendar, but become a valuable advert for the British Club Bangkok.



a plethora of excellent prizes raffle prizes distributed to lucky winners, with Air Astana's four return tickets to London, iPods, iPhones, BCB Vice-Chairman Ali Adam and his wife Andrea making off with the Samsung TV and home theatre system.

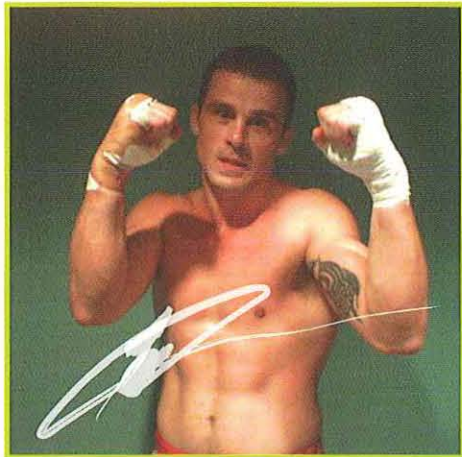
The entertainment highlight of the evening was the Amari Watergate's Hotel Band and DJ Robbie Love alternating music styles during the whole night. The dance floor was packed from the dinner until late.

We've had so many requests for the very popular shirts and outfits worn by the waitresses, so we are planning to sell them in the gym. The Section, with profits from the Ball, has agreed to sponsor the BC mini rugby section with shirts. The mini's have been running around the front lawn on Sundays looking fabulously in *Pink & Black*.



## REED PASSMORE

# SPORTS & LEISURE



Firstly, I would like to welcome you all to 2009 and wish you all the best in the coming year. 2008 was a great year in terms of club development, particularly in the sporting development of juniors within the club. We saw numerous new activities and the sports sections going from strength to strength. Swimming lessons are getting busier and busier, junior rugby has become a regular event now (thanks to the British Club Rugby Section for their great support and jerseys plus Bangkok lions for donating junior rugby balls). We had 5 sports camps throughout the year which covered everything from horse riding, gymnastics, bike riding on Ko Kret, football, tennis, ten pin bowling, cricket, swimming and much more.

In May we had a 4-a-side football tournament proudly sponsored by Asian Tigers which saw 55 members enjoy a fantastic day. The first ever **AMAZING RACE** around Bangkok in early October was

This coming year sees more new events like backyard cricket, all sections sports competition, social 5-a-side football, touch rugby, junior chess club and more. Last but not least. The football section played their first game of football on the new courts Tuesday 9th December. This outdoor facility is world class and yet more reason for you to dust off 'ya boots and join me and the thriving BCB community in Bangkok.

## DIARY DATES

### FAMILY 4-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

14th March

(With 80's theme — "Keegan" perms allowed)

4-a-side football. Must have 2 children under 12 and at least 1 female per team.



KIDS QUIZ: Can you name the team logos on this page?  
Answers to Reed, prize to the first correct entry!



Next time we'll be on the back lawn!

### TENNIS AND FOOTBALL CAMP

Feb 16th to 20th

2 hours of Tennis followed by 1 hour football or swimming 9am to 12:30pm.



### BACKYARD CRICKET — FEBRUARY 28TH

Backyard cricket, Australian beer, BBQ, sounds like a great day. So find your floppy hats, stubby coolers and zinc cream for the noses. Family rules, 5 per team. All ages welcome!

### ALL SECTION SPORTS COMPETITION — MAY 17TH

The British Club Bangkok's "Section Vs. Section" tournament.

Play other sections sports, round robins; compete in mini Olympics and finish with an all sections piss up (Ed) party.



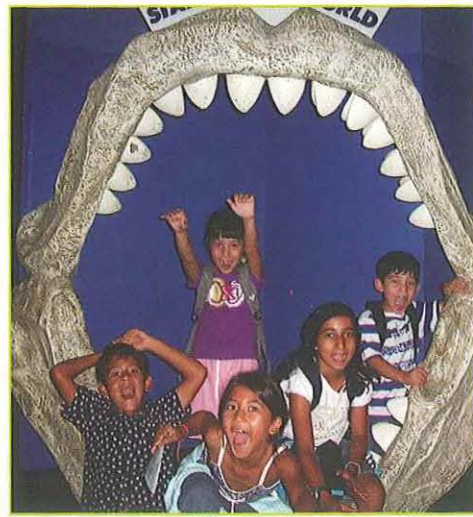
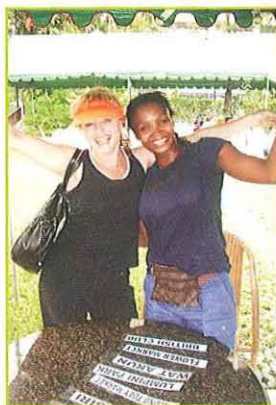
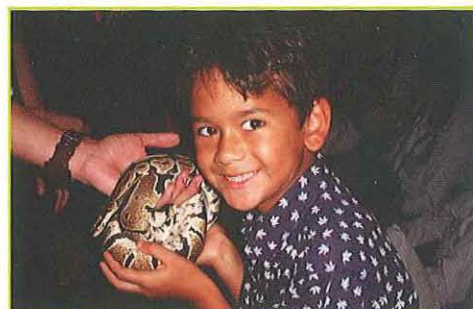
We're training  
for the  
Amazing Race  
2



# 2008 IN REVIEW



"2008 was a great year, 5 sports camps covered everything from horse riding, gymnastics, bike riding on Ko Kret, football, tennis, ten pin bowling, cricket, swimming and much more!"



# THE AMAZING RACE 2

THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

Amazing Race 2 is all set for April. If you missed the first be sure to join the second. Teams of 2 race (tuk tuk, taxis, BTS or on foot) around Bangkok completing challenging, embarrassing or cultural challenges. Buffet dinner, drinks and great prizes. Be warned, AR2 will be more challenging this time round!!!!



# Squashy Bits

Jack Dunford  
Squash Section



The Chairman's beats the Captain's

The Rod Carter Open and Plate, BCB's premier squash event was played in October/ November, open to all squash players in Thailand and sponsored by ACA Pacific Group, Minelco and Huntsman Pub. The finals were played on Sunday 9th November. **PETER CORNEY** reports:

"There were 52 entrants from 12 different clubs including the BCB with a strong contingent of 12 players. There were 9 entries from Vajiravuth College and 8 from Polo Club. Thai Numbers 1 and 2, Chatchawin and Poowis both entered although unfortunately Chatchawin had to drop out of the quarter finals

The Rod Carter Plate was won 3-0 by Sumit from Steve Bell. The still very able but unfit Steve fought hard, but Sumit proved too young and too quick. Sumit and Steve received 5,000 Baht and 2,500 Baht to go with their trophies

The Open was impressively won by Poowis from Supich, 9-0, 9-0, 9-0. Supich put up a good fight in an entertaining match enjoyed by the spectators. But the younger and very focused Poowis didn't give an inch. Even though there were quite a few handouts, Supich couldn't get a score on the board. Poowis and Supich received handsome prizes of 15,000 Baht and 7,000 Baht with their trophies.

The losing semi finalists, Jesada and Nattakit, each received 5,000 Baht. Of note was Nattakit's match with Poowis in the semi final. He put up a great fight but just lacks the experience in the big matches. He had to work so hard that he finished up with cramp in the final game. He still scored 5 and 6 points in the first two games which, as Supich demonstrated, is no mean feat against Poowis. Also of note was Bruce Madge's match against "Clark Kent" from Vajiravuth College.

Happy New Year! Sorry *Squashy Bits* was a bit irregular in 2008. I'll try to do better this year, but in the meantime we have plenty to "squash in" this issue, including the Rod Carter Open and our Christmas celebrations. Read on and Happy Squashing!

Editor's Note: You don't have to wait a month for more...

*Squashy Bits*

See page 27



(Bruce filed a text message report on the match but you will have ask Peter to read it as it was unfortunately not suitable for a family magazine).

On completion of the finals, Poowis and Chatchawin kindly held a best of 3 exhibition match. We were treated to a tremendous spectacle of athleticism, both players seemingly able to get everything except a dead nick.

Sumit's beautiful young lady friend conducted the lucky draw for participants attending the finals and after the first four "no show" draws, as last year, the next name drawn was mine! I decided to put the prize back in and have another draw and Dean Thompson won the 5,000 baht."

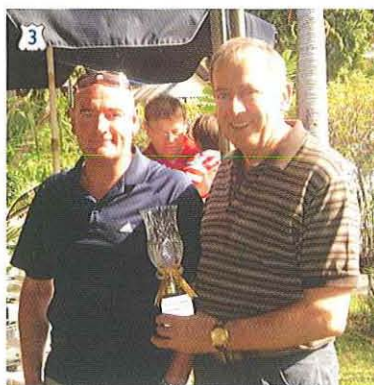
Peter does a fantastic job organising this competition which gets better every year. It is becoming recognised as one of the premier tournaments in Thailand, greatly enhancing BCB's reputation with the other clubs. Notably every match had a referee thanks to Peter, Bruce, Charles, John and Steve, as well as visiting club members who volunteered as markers. Thanks are also due to Ruengrit and the Fitness staff who helped Peter throughout the event.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY & MIX-IN

Sunday 7th December was one of those glorious cool season days and the occasion of the ever-popular Section Christmas bash. In a new innovation, 22 players were split into two teams in the morning to fight for the honour of our beloved Section Chairman Peter Corney and Captain David Eastgate. Even more novel, players were invited to name their opponents.

With several matches ending up 3-0 it seems some players were a lot smarter picking their opponents than others. (My own squash rehabilitation is quietly underway and I had harboured hopes of catching Da on an off day ... but was one of the 0-3s). By the time David played Peter in the final it was too late. Although won 3-2, the Chairman's team had run out deserving 6-5 winners.

Then on to a sumptuous lunch, courtesy of the Club's Sunday carvery. 44 people mysteriously appeared out of the bushes and marvellous Marvyn spun the discs. The Squash Section likes to pride itself as the best run and most friendly section of the Club and



1. Out of the bushes

2. Aaaaarrrrrrrggghhhh!

3. Peter gets lucky

3. Keep it up Peter!

4. Poowis: Rod Carter Cup 2008

6. After the finals

a merry time was had by all. As usual Marvyn dazzled us with famous Welsh hits interspersed with impossible musical trivia, and prizes were liberally handed out to winners and losers alike. Somewhere along the way, Bruce made an eloquent speech saying what a great bunch we all are and presented Peter with a fine crystal trophy in recognition of decades of service as chairman. "Keep it up ... as long as you can" it was inscribed. And so say all of us!

## LEAGUE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of October League 236: Division 1 Chris Venvell, 2 Charles Whiteley, 3 Walter Gray, 4 Anantana

NOVEMBER LEAGUE 237: Division 1 Chris Venvell, 2 John Vivian, 3 Anantana, 4 John Drew.

DECEMBER LEAGUE 238: Division 1 Chris Venvell, 2 Dean Thompson, 3 Jonathon Loney, 4 Mark Fowler.







## BRITISH CLUB GOLF

*Tee to Green over a Busy Period for BCB Golfers*

**Jenny Harries**  
*Golf Section*

November was an extremely busy month for us. We started off with the Inter-societies' Match at Royal Hills. Most of us took part for the various loyal societies, with St George's winning the overall score for the two days. The weekend was excellently managed by the St George's Society, particularly Andy Flynn.

### THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The BCGS Club Champs was held at the Phoenix Golf Course south of Pattaya. Once again we were sponsored by the local mortgage, finance and insurance company, MBMG, whose generosity enabled us to give good prizes. We welcomed Simon Philbrook from MBMG and he played with us on both days. (In fact, it was a good job he was not eligible for the Championship as his lowest gross score would have won).

Playing conditions on the course were excellent and it did not rain, thank goodness. We played the Mountain and Lakes courses and found them both challenging.

There was a smaller turn out for the ladies this year with a couple of our

lower handicap players not available to play. This rather left the field wide open for Tracy Birchall whose handicap was ten points lower than her nearest rival on the day. However this did not stop her playing with her usual determination and attention to every stroke and she fully deserved to win the title of Ladies' Club Champion with a respectable score of 164 gross for the two days. Runner up was Maureen Gibson who also won the best net cup for the Ladies.

In the Men's competition, however, the rivalry was fierce with up to eight serious contenders for the title. A few fell by the wayside on the first day and on the second day the contest went to the last hole between three players. Frank Fawkes just managed to keep his cool and won by one point with a gross score of 162, with Mike Staples in second place with 163 and John Carter third with 165. The best net cup was won by Mike Staples who shot net 68 on the first day. The winners all received bottles of wine, vouchers for Central Stores and replica trophies. The original trophies

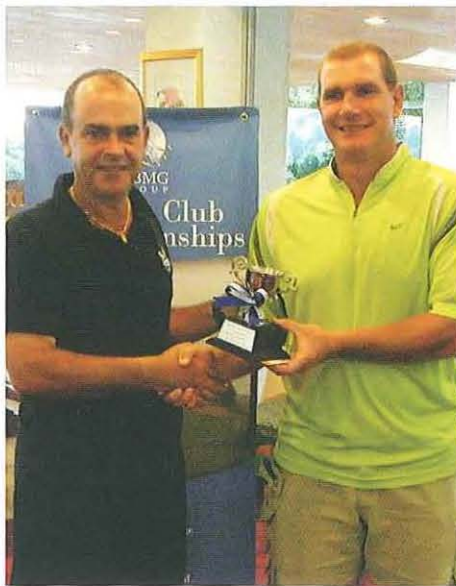
live in the cupboard in the foyer at the British Club and are engraved annually.

The technical prizes were evenly shared out. Todd Guest clearly liked the second hole on the Lake course as he won the near pin on both days and Val Ashman won two near pins on the second day. MBMG sponsor, Simon won the longest drive on the first day with a massive hit.

As if all this competition was not enough, Harland Bulow introduced an additional prize for the second day — what he called Poker Golf. Having had a memorable (or forgettable) seven 7s on the first day he offered a prize to anyone who could beat that with either a full house or a straight flush on any seven holes. There was quite a lot of interest for this novel score and my full house of scores from 3 to 9 was beaten by Bob Randle's 4 to 10 full house, so he took the bottle of wine.

The Club Championships is not just about the golf however, it is also a good opportunity for us all to get together socially and we enjoyed a convivial evening at the News Café in Jomtien where the





British Club Ladies at the Phoenix GC for the Club Championships.



Simon Philbrook from MBMG presents the ladies runner-up trophy to Maureen Gibson.

We are the Champions: Frank Fawkes (left) with runner-up Mike Staples (middle). Ladies Champion, Tracy Birchall (right).

lights went out just as we arrived (is our reputation so bad that places close as we turn up?). In fact there had been an electrical fire and the manager was distraught thinking that he would have to turn 28 of us away. Other guests left to search for food elsewhere, but we were given a free drink and asked to wait while they cleared the restaurant of the smell

of burnt plastic. So 20 minutes later we went inside and had an excellent evening with no hint of the drama that had occurred earlier.

#### MILNE MONTHLY MEDAL

At the end of the month, those of us not completely golfed out turned up for the monthly medal at the Royal. It was quite a windy day and this affected some of the scores, but not, however, Gordon Milne who carded 7 under par (net 65) to win the A flight medal and a subsequent handicap cut to 12. B flight was won by Andrew McLean with net 73. We also had two fun club days at Bangkok Golf Club and Subhapruek, which gives us an opportunity to play more casual formats and also for players still in the Seara Match Play to complete their next round. At the time of writing the final is

going to be a close match between Barry Ashman and Brian Brook.

Also, congratulations to Yurachar Brook for her first ever EAGLE!!

#### HUA HIN

The holiday weekend at the beginning of December saw us in Hua Hin for two annual matches both played at Majestic Creek. The first was the competition between the committee and the rest for the DEE MED CUP. The committee is somewhat depleted now and there were seven of us playing against about 15 members. So all the committee stableford scores counted towards our overall total and were matched against the best seven from the members. Amazingly the committee won by a couple of points and proudly took possession of the trophy. Barry Ashman reckons the result was a foregone conclusion as in all the years he has played in the trophy, whether for the committee or for the members, his side has never won. Sorry Barry.

There were also annual trophies for the best stableford scores. The Inaugural Cup for A flight (with handicaps up to 18) was won by Mike Staples (who is really on form at the moment) and Karen Carter won the Ambassador Cup for B flight (handicaps over 18).

#### SUAL BELL

The following day we played against the Golfers Cocktail Lounge, one of the old established golf societies in Bangkok, for the SUAL bell. In a hotly contested match between 11 groups, GCL won by one game. So for the first time in three





Dee Med cup winners, the Committee plus Mike Staples and Karen Carter.  
(Below, right) The SUAL Bell goes to the Golfer's Cocktail Lounge.

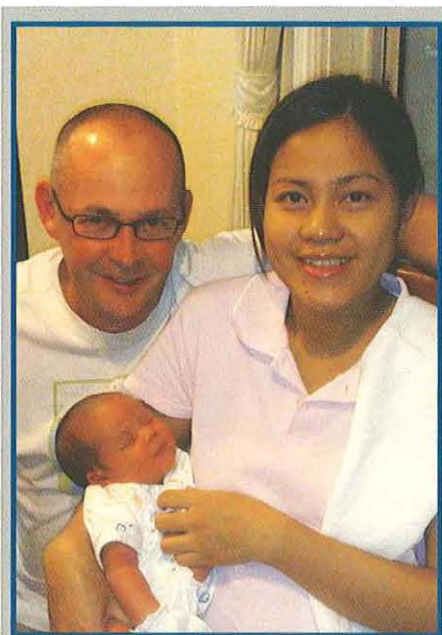
years GCL took home the trophy. In the evening we went to the traditional party kindly hosted by Khun Ben and Khun Pensiri at their lovely home on the beach next to the royal palace in Hua Hin. We were entertained by Barry from GLC with his succession of very old jokes (SUAL in the trophy name stands for "shut up and listen") and the bell was duly handed over to GCL's organiser Wendy.

#### MILNE MONTHLY MEDAL

The last medal of the year, sponsored by Gordon Milne, is quite an event as it is the last chance for people to improve their eclectic scores for the year. In a tightly contested game, Barry Ashman (who was not on the winning side for the Dee Med Cup) won A flight with a great net 68 and subsequent handicap cut. Rosemarie Milne just beat Peter Bond to take the B flight trophy on a technicality as the ladies are allowed a two stroke advantage at the Royal (this is a tradition which goes back years).

#### HOLE IN ONE

Congratulations to John Carter who, while out playing a friendly game with just two other British Club golfers, shot his first ever hole in one on the 13th at the Royal Course. What a shame there



#### NEW ARRIVAL

MORE CONGRATULATIONS also go to Peter Gale and Gaew Khongyoo on the birth of their first son, Matthew Thaiyot on 22 December. How long will it be before Matthew is following his parents around the golf course with a cut down club in his hand? Best wishes to the family for the future.



weren't more people around to share the drinks. Good planning JC.

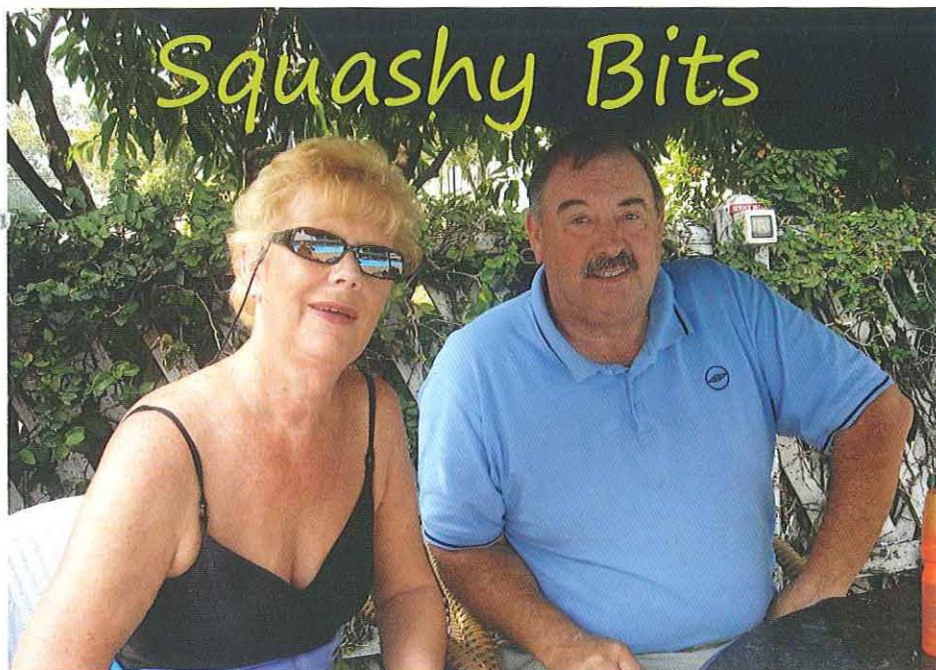
#### MIDWEEKERS' GOLF

Ray Bloom is now back and running the midweekers' golf group which plays about 8am on Wednesday mornings. The regular golf course is Bangkok Golf Club, but we alternate with other courses just for variety.

We play friendly golf with teams drawn out of a hat on the day. Scoring is on combined stableford scores, so that everyone has a chance to contribute right to the last hole, even if they personally are having an awful round. There are no prizes or match fees – it is all just for fun.

If you are interested in playing on Wednesday morning please contact Ray Bloom on 087 051 3548 or email [rbloom\\_364@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rbloom_364@yahoo.co.uk)





Val and Tony Austin visit the British Club Bangkok.

**JACK DUNFORD** takes advantage of a quiet spell on the "Squashy" front to meet old friends and research the Club's squash trophies...

It is still early January as I write this and most squashies are just getting back into action after the holidays. The weather is gorgeous, one of the nicest cool seasons in memory. The Club is looking splendid and it has been a pleasure to welcome back old friends passing through as they do this time of year. Prominent amongst these were Val and Tony Austin (pictured) who visit us as regularly as the Siberian water-fowl. Tony Austin, as in Tony Austin Cup, the annual open squash tournament played by the over-45s and won last year by Ja.

#### TONY AUSTIN CUP

When I started writing Squashy Bits a few years ago I started a series of articles recording the origins of the various trophies we play for and the people behind them. So here was the chance to add another. I sat down with them one lovely sunny morning to get the basics, Val as usual wrapped in "The World's Biggest Book of Sudoku Puzzles," and Tony surfing his laptop...with two pairs of spectacles perched on his nose. (His mother always warned him!)

Tony first came to the Club in 1979 working with Dale in the power generation business and lived in Bangkok with Val from 1982 to 1992. He was yet another larger-than-life, no-nonsense, but likeable Yorkshireman from Scarborough, neighbour and workmate of Harold Mercer in whose memory the Ha-

rold Mercer trophy was donated. Tony was a regular and enthusiastic squashy and part of the life and sole of the section during his time with us.

In 1991, before leaving Bangkok, Tony donated the Tony Austin Cup, getting the idea from RBSC where they also had a trophy for age-challenged squashies. Although it seems that most of the BC squash members are now over 45, the competition still has a certain dignity about it by excluding the younger riff-raff.

These days Tony and Val are happily retired in Spain and are into golf. Tony says he only plays squash about twice a year but doesn't look much different than when he was with us. They have two sons Phil and Richard and apparently Phil is a bit of star in the squash courts back in Yorkshire. Great to see you both! Maybe we should organise the tournament when you are with us next year and have Tony join in!

#### BC VS PATANA TEACHERS

Back in November, the Club hosted Bangkok Patana School teachers and for the record though, we got thumped, I think I was 6-4, the third successive victory for the visitors. Charles was seen with a huge smile on his face for days after and told me that the Patana school had purchased a trophy and awarded to themselves permanently to celebrate their achievement.

#### Don Johnston

One of the most difficult trophies to research was the Don Johnston Cup; the Club's oldest squash trophy for the Club Championship. It took several editions of Outpost and input from members to dig up that Don was basically a good bloke and modest squash player who worked with New Zealand Insurance. By accident I recently came across an article in February 1982 Outpost with an extract of a letter from Don, dated 8th July 1980:

"Very briefly, whilst I was in Thailand from 1961 to 1966 there was in fact no squash at the British Club, all the squash was played at the RBSC and the British Club was in fact a very much smaller operation, which I had the pleasure of overseeing as Secretary for two years of my stay in Bangkok. Very briefly, efforts were made to extend the British Club during 1965/66 when in fact the swimming pool and squash court were built. When I left Bangkok in October 1966 the squash court had not been completed. We provided the contractor with the full measurements of the squash court and when it was built it was found a little strange. On checking it was found that the contractor, without reference I anybody, had built the squash courts according to American dimensions. However this was duly rectified, but unfortunately, not before I left Thailand.

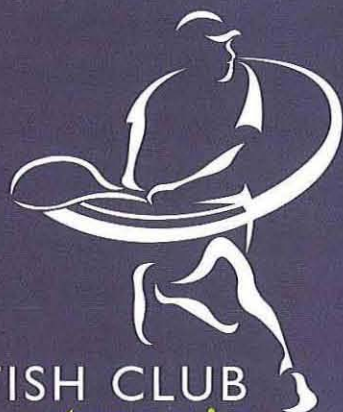
However, in order to encourage squash at the club, I had taken the opportunity to donate the trophy just before I left. I am very pleased to see that it has gone from strength to strength and that there is obviously some keen competition for the cup. Whilst I was in Bangkok I was Secretary of the squash section of RBSC but with regards to my prowess again this was somewhat limited and I should think there were about 20 players could give me five or six points a set and still come out winners. However it was really the enjoyment of the game and the friends that I made whilst in Bangkok through the squash section that gave me my love of the game".



THE BRITISH CLUB  
BANGKOK

British Club Tennis Magazine

# BASELINE

BRITISH CLUB  
tennis

**M**ost Club members will by now have had a chance to play on the new GreenSet tennis courts. I have heard nothing but warm praise for the playing surfaces and glowing reports from our senior players and lead professional. Surely, these are the finest tennis courts in Bangkok!

The member turnout at the Grand Opening was impressive, I was particularly happy to see people signing up to take part in the one-day team tennis tournament. These events follow a logical path — preparation, play and celebration. Because everything is finished in one day, there is complete focus and a sense of community. The social aspect of this cannot be ignored. I look forward to many more such occasions in the 2009 programme.

Daniel and Reed have been working hard to develop a programme of events to include competitive, social, recurring (regular), offsite, and even non-tennis events — to keep our members happy. In addition, the new booking system, to also allow event booking via an online calendar, is nearing completion and pilot trial.

Some key dates in the calendar are broached here, there are many more events to come. Key thing is to enjoy the game, enjoy our Club.

BELOW — January 24, 2009 — **Team Thailand takes on the Rest of the World** — In a closely fought battle, where every game won counted to the final score, Thailand emerged victorious.

## BRITISH CLUB TENNIS 2009

Four courts installed and playing well

A new programme...embracing a new Vision for tennis at the British Club Bangkok



### Preliminary — Key Dates

2009 promises numerous members days, social games, competitive intra club and inter-club tournaments. See below for a preview, full schedule to follow.

21st March: Men's Club Doubles  
28th March: Ladies Club Doubles  
26th April: Generations Tournament  
May 30th: Intra-Club event: 8 teams of 6 (3 ladies and 3 men per team in 3 doubles pairs - mixed, men's & ladies)  
June 20th: Mixed Club Doubles  
August 29th: Inter-Club Event  
October 31st–November 15th: (3 weekends) Club Singles Tournament.  
December 13th: Christmas social tournament.

### Mix-in and New Mix-in Times

Due to the popularity of our cur-

rent mix-in days and nights we will also start a Sunday mix-in. Starting at 4pm–7pm this will start Sunday 22nd February.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6pm–10pm. Sunday 4pm–7pm and Ladies mix-ins Tuesday and Thursday 8am–11am.

### Tennis League

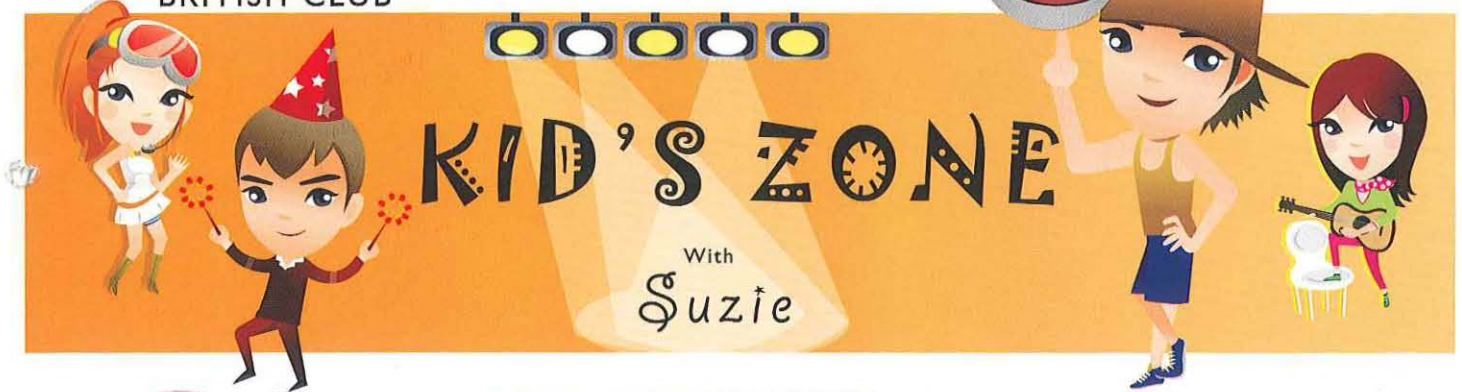
The league will resume late February. To join the league email Reed at Reed.Passmore@britishclubbangkok.org

### Junior Tennis

Junior Tennis has started again on Friday afternoons. Lessons are Bt.400 per hour. Sign up at the Fitness Centre or contact Reed at Reed.Passmore@britishclubbangkok.org.



## BRITISH CLUB

VALENTINE FORTUNE  
COOKIE PINS

You can easily make these adorable fortune cookie pins with a special message inside for Valentine's Day. These make a great gift for teachers, friends and family as well!

**What You Need**

- Pink & Red Craft Foam or Circle Foamins
- Jewellery Craft Pin
- Low Temp Glue Gun
- Paper
- Scissors
- Package in a Chinese Food Container

**What you do**

Cut a 2-3/4" circle out of craft foam. Roll in half and put a dab of hot glue to hold it together. Put your thumb in one end and your middle finger in the other end. Pinch together, using your index finger to push in the centre. Put a dab of hot glue where the foam comes together so the cookie keeps its shape. Make up tags or fortunes and glue one end inside the cookie.

Hot-glue on a pin.

## SALT DOUGH LIPS PIN

Salt dough is such a fun medium. So many cute things can be made from salt dough and a little craft paint. Try these cute little lips on for size! Make them from a heart cookie cutter and a little manipulation, glue a pin on the back and you're done! Hint: This is a very fun gift to give to teachers!

CONVERSATION HEART  
COOKIES

It wouldn't be Valentine's Day without Conversation Hearts. We've created a way to express your feelings in a BIG way by making these conversation heart cookies. Don't hold back...show your Valentine how you really feel!

**What you need for cookies:**

1 roll of refrigerated sugar cookie mix or your favourite sugar cookie recipe (OR pre-baked or bought cookies will do).  
Heart-shaped cookie cutter

**What you need for icing:**

- Red, yellow, green, blue and purple paste food colouring
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 4 TBSP water

Roll out chilled dough on a lightly floured surface to a 3/8-inch thickness. Cut out hearts and bake as per directed on the package or follow the directions in the recipe below. Cool completely before icing.

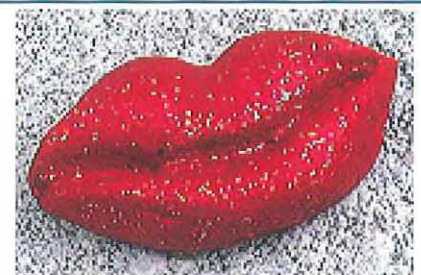
**Decorating Cookies**

Mix the powdered sugar and water in a bowl until smooth; adding more water, if needed, a few drops at a time. Divide into 6 bowls for pink, yellow, green, blue & purple and leaving one bowl to colour red — it will be used to write the words on the cookies. Colour the icing using the paste food colouring. \*\*Tip — you only need just a dab of the food colouring to get a light pastel colour for the cookies but you will need to use slightly more red for a nice, deep red writing colour. Ice cookies following the outline of each heart, stopping short of the edge of the cookie.

Add the red icing to a plastic baggie. Push the icing into one corner of the baggie. Snip off the very end point to make an icing bag. Print Valentine's Day words and sayings onto the cookies. (Refer to the cookies in the picture above for ideas).

**You will need:**

- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup water
- Red acrylic paint
- Pink glitter glue
- Paintbrush
- Heart shaped cookie cutter
- Toothpick
- Pin back
- White craft glue or hot glue



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This recipe for salt dough makes a lot of projects. If you only plan on making a few, cut this recipe into fourths or in half.



# CLUB DIRECTORY

Contact Information, Regular Events and F&B Highlights

## CLUB MANAGEMENT

### CEO

Michael Silcock

[ceo@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:ceo@britishclubbangkok.org)

### General Manager

Barry Osborne

[gm@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:gm@britishclubbangkok.org)

### DGM Finance

Premrudee Tanyaluck

[premrudee@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:premrudee@britishclubbangkok.org)

### Sport & Recreation Manager

Reed Passmore

[reed@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:reed@britishclubbangkok.org)

### Membership Manager

Weena Weiner

[weena@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:weena@britishclubbangkok.org)

### Communications Manager

Supatra Kinan

[supatra@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:supatra@britishclubbangkok.org)

### Catering Manager

Somboon Chaiyaprom

[somboon@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:somboon@britishclubbangkok.org)

### Manager Poolside & Sports

Ruengrit Turiwongse

[sports@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:sports@britishclubbangkok.org)

### Manager Fitness Centre

Amnat Saklebpradu

[sports@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:sports@britishclubbangkok.org)

## MEMBER ACTIVITIES

### Balut

Phil Alexander

[philalexander@martellorealty.com](mailto:philalexander@martellorealty.com)

### Bridge

Winlock Hsu

[winlock@duaraform.co.th](mailto:winlock@duaraform.co.th)

### Cricket

Reed Passmore

[reed@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:reed@britishclubbangkok.org)

### Football

Peter Rodgers

[p\\_a\\_rodders@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:p_a_rodders@yahoo.co.uk)

### Golf

Maureen Gibson

[gibmaureen@gmail.com](mailto:gibmaureen@gmail.com)

### Pipe Band

Angus McKernan

[Angus.mckernan@gmail.com](mailto:Angus.mckernan@gmail.com)

### Rugby

Morcar McConnell

[morcar.s.mcconnell@gmail.com](mailto:morcar.s.mcconnell@gmail.com)

### Spoofers

Steve Eaton

[eatonsteve2000@yahoo.com](mailto:eatonsteve2000@yahoo.com)

### Squash

Peter Corney

[peter@acagroup.com](mailto:peter@acagroup.com)

### Tennis

Reed Passmore

[reed@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:reed@britishclubbangkok.org)

Daniel Ahl

[daah@patana.ac.th](mailto:daah@patana.ac.th)

## LOYAL SOCIETIES

### St Andrew's

John McTaggart

[johnmact@truemail.co.th](mailto:johnmact@truemail.co.th)

### St. David's

Stephanie Jones

[stephanie.j@shrewsbury.ac.th](mailto:stephanie.j@shrewsbury.ac.th)

### St. George's

Gale Bailey

[galebailey@hotmail.com](mailto:galebailey@hotmail.com)

### St. Patrick's

Desmond Kimmet

[deskimmet@yahoo.com](mailto:deskimmet@yahoo.com)

## SERVICE HOURS

Reception: 8am–10pm

Churchill Bar: 10am–11pm

The Verandah: 11am–10pm

Poolside Bar: 7am–10pm

Fitness Centre:

Mon–Fri — 6am–10pm

Sat–Sun — 6am–9pm

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Tuesday

#### CHURCHILL BAR

Spoofing @ 8:30pm–late

### Wednesday

#### THE VERANDAH

Wednesday Carvery — Choose from soup, two roasts Carvery with potatoes & Vegetables: Bt 275 (with salad Baht 30 extra).

Available from noon–2pm and 6pm–10pm

#### CHURCHILL BAR

Prestige Wines Accumulator @ 7–8pm  
Any member could win from Bt. 5,000 to Bt.25,000 — prizes increases each week.

Bottle Draw @ 7:30pm

A member present in the Bar will win a bottle of whisky, tequila, vodka or gin.

### Friday

#### THE VERANDAH

The Friday "Themed Buffet." Lunch & Dinner.

### Sunday

#### THE VERANDAH

Sunday Carvery @ Lunch only from 11:30am until 3pm every Sunday.

#### SILOM ROOM

Children's Activities — Games, videos, crafts, soft drinks and snacks with Susie (see page 29).

#### SURIWONGSE ROOM

Bridge Tournament @ 2:30–6pm onwards (except last Sunday in the month).

## UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

### 20th February

Mexican Buffet — Enjoy a soup, a range of delicious salads and main courses. The best of Mexican cuisine freshly prepared by khun Laak and her team of chefs.

### 27th February

Curry Buffet — Finish off the week with Khun Laak's famous curry buffet.

## CONTACTS

Reception

Tel: 02 234 0247

Fax: 02 235 1560

[www.britishclubbangkok.org](http://www.britishclubbangkok.org)





THE BRITISH CLUB  
BANGKOK

# Annual General Meeting

*Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 7:00 pm*

The General Committee of the British Club Bangkok gives notice that this year's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Suriwongse Room on Tuesday, 17 March 2009 at 7:00 pm.

All Ordinary and Country members are urged to attend in order to debate and approve the affairs of the Club, the Club accounts, the appointment of auditors, and to elect a General Committee for the 2009/10 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 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

One important function of the AGM is to elect the General Committee (GC) of the Club, composed of a minimum of 8, and a maximum of 10 Ordinary members. GC members are required to attend one formal meeting per month, and in addition may be required to attend sub-committees and review materials "out of session" in order to facilitate management of the Club. This year, committee members have been assigned responsibility for the strategic management of key result/issue areas, namely:

- Development
- Food & Beverage
- Treasury
- House & Grounds
- Communications
- Marketing
- Membership
- Member Activities
- Constitution, Rules and Bylaws

The General Committee provides strategic and policy guidance in addition to overall management oversight, whilst the professional staff oversees the daily operations of the Club. If you would like to learn more about the GC and the duties and responsibilities of its members, please contact the CEO.

Members wishing to stand for election to the GC should, in the first instance, contact membership services for an application form. Candidates require both a Proposer and Seconder, both either Ordinary or Country members, to sign the nomination. Candidates may also stand from the floor during the AGM. However, it is preferable to circulate the list of candidates ahead of the meeting, so please submit your application for the attention of CEO, Michael Silcock, no later than Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009.



This year is Samitivej's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For a second year running,  
we will continue to provide health care  
without increasing medical expenses.

In addition, we will provide  
an additional room discount  
as our gift to you.



\*This campaign is valid until 30 June 2009



**25% off Heart Check-Up Program**

February

Until Feb 28, 2009

**0-2711-8181**  
www.samitivejhospitals.com



**Terms & Conditions**

- Advance booking is required. For Samitivej Sukhumvit and Srinakarin, please call 02-711-8181. For Samitivej Sriracha, please call 038-320-300.
- For your convenience, this coupon must be presented prior to receiving the service.
- This coupon can not be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with any other promotion.
- Limit 1 coupon per 1 time usage per person.
- Samitivej Hospitals reserve the rights to change any of the conditions without prior notice.
- Samitivej Hospitals will not be responsible for the lost, stolen or expired coupon.
- This coupon is valid on the specified month only.