



OUTPOST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

THE CLUB FLIPS OUT IN FEBRUARY

Time for pancake races!

LOOKING BACK

Holiday fun at the Club

SPORTS

2009: what a year!

SPOTLIGHT

Soi Cats and Dogs

SQUASHY BITS

A fly-on-the-wall report

Contents

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BANGKOK

OUTPOST Magazine

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OUTPOST

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FRONT COVER

Khun Laak and the Club's
kitchen staff have flipped
now that it's February,
which means it's soon to
be Shrove Tuesday and
all-things-pancakes: a
great special menu and
the always-entertaining
pancake races.

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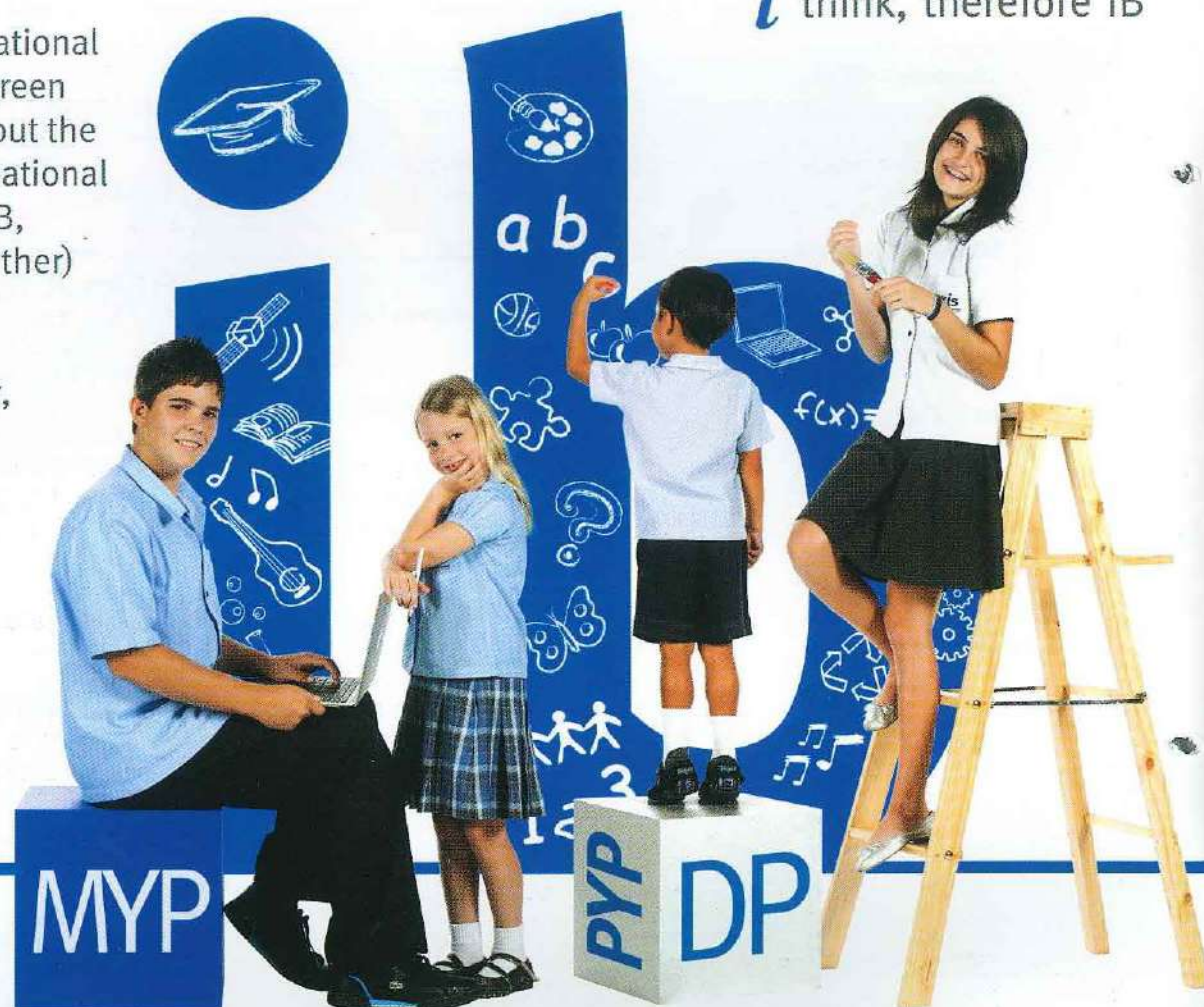
09:30 Registration and snacks
10:00 Presentations start
11:00 School tours
12:30 Application for academic scholarships

Sunday March 7, 2010

i think, therefore IB

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Jonathan Truslow
Chairman - General
Committee 2009/2010

I thought I would dedicate this edition of the Chairman's message to a review of the Club's finances. We started 2009 by reigning in our expenditures to ensure the Club was able to weather the recession. Although membership fell throughout the early part of the year and F&B turnover dropped, we were able to reduce operating costs and ended the year with a net loss of 1.7 million baht, represented by an operating loss of about 600,000 baht and a loss on the capital account of 1.1 million baht.

As a members club, our aim is to more or less break even on operating revenue and expenses, so this is not at all a bad result in such a difficult year. Large losses are obviously undesirable, but so are large profits, as this indicates that we members have been paying too much for services received.

The capital account is more dependent on policy, whether the club is investing or saving. It has been a longstanding accounting practice at the Club to earmark new members' joining fees to cover the capital costs of maintaining and developing the Club. In 2008/09, we spent a lot of money on necessary and, in some cases, long overdue maintenance, in excess of the poorer than forecast new member fees (4.2m baht actual against a budget of 7.76m), which resulted in the loss on the capital account given above. Again, this is not necessarily a bad thing, as the Club remains very liquid with about 17 million baht of net cash in hand. We therefore feel confident in continuing to invest in the repair, maintenance and upgrade of the Club through 2010, but will return to the principle of balancing expenditure against new members' fees and plan to spend about 5.7m on new projects against receipts of 6.0m, which will still leave us with a healthy cash reserve.

Major items included in the projected capital expenditure for 2010 are refurbishment of the gym and ladies' changing room, replacement of A/C units throughout the Club, a new storage and maintenance facility and, potentially, further work on the tennis courts.

Overall, we are budgeting to break even in both the operating and capital profit and loss accounts for 2010.

If you would like to know and understand more about the Club's finances, please consider coming along to the Treasury Work Group. The TWG is open to all members and meets monthly to review the Club's finances and assist the Treasurer in managing them appropriately.

Please note that all the figures given above are approximate and unaudited. Final audited accounts for the year will be sent out with the AGM notices.

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah

11am - 2pm (Mon. - Thurs.)
5pm - 10pm (Mon. - Thurs.)
11am - 10pm (Fri. - Sun. and Public Holidays)

Neilson Hays Coffee Shop

9am - 6pm (Tues.-Sun.)

Fitness Centre 6am - 10pm (Mon.-Fri.)

Churchill Bar

10am - 11pm

Fitness Centre 6am - 9pm (Sat.-Sun.)

Poolside Bar

7am - 10pm
Last food orders - 9.30pm

Thai Massage 9am - 5pm (Tues.-Sun.)

HOUSE & GROUNDS

The monthly report on Maintenance and Development



Yesterday, on 6th January at 11.27pm, I was woken up by an incoming SMS message from one of our better-known Members to inform me, "There are millions of your termites in here". I confess that I went straight back to sleep, as I needed my rest. The message sender was a friend who likes to wind me up, and I was already aware of the implications, which are not serious enough to lose sleep over.

The occurrence was an invasion of flying insects. This happened before in the Clubhouse corridor at around 9pm on 16 December. Subsequent inspection by Scientific Pest Management (SPM), who are under contract to us, confirmed that the flying insects were alates, winged termites with a short lifespan, that have just left a nest or colony with the aim of establishing new ones. They are generally seen during the colder months of the year, typically from December to March. They behave similarly to most other flying insects by flying in swarms and are attracted to UV lights. Alates are generally very weak, and despite the numbers that they can appear in, their chances of successfully establishing new colonies are very small. We are advised that it is unlikely that the alates have come from another area of the Club. They are able to fly quite large distances, and the Club buildings and grounds have been intensely treated. The monitoring work being done shows that any remaining termite activity is limited to some small specific areas, and the bait stations have indicated very little activity in the immediate vicinity of the buildings. As for the alates, it is usually a simple matter of sweeping up all the dead bodies after they have dropped.

We still have some remaining problems in the reception area and the corridor, where termites have almost destroyed the panel behind the reception desk, and the notice boards in the corridor. We are reasonably sure that there is now very little current termite activity in these locations, due to the treatment provided by SPM, and are making arrangements to replace the panelling and the notice boards. Plywood will not be used in the future, as termites have a particular liking for this material.

A sub-committee has been set up to consider and deal with the rectification of the tennis court surface. The sub-committee includes representatives of the Tennis Section and Members with suitable technical backgrounds. We have collected all the relevant technical information and are now in the process of appointing a tennis court specialist to provide independent advice to assist us in making a decision. Also, we are proposing to replace the fence between the Silom Sala and the tennis courts. The new fence will be made from a more robust material. The present one has torn in several places, and the sharp ends of the wire are a hazard, particularly to unsuspecting children.

We have received useful feedback on the Men's Changing Room and also received comments regarding the impending

design of the Ladies' Changing Room. These are all being considered, and certain shortcomings in the Men's Changing Room will be dealt with by an early date. The lack of hanging rails is something that definitely needs sorting out. Design of the Ladies' Changing Room will start very soon, with the intention of carrying out the work in February and March. This is subject to agreement with the sports sections and the provision of temporary facilities that are acceptable to the majority of the Members who use the facilities.

The work in the Verandah and Churchill Bar is complete except for the provision of additional pictures in the Verandah and the handrail for the entrance steps in the Churchill Bar. We would like to carry out a couple more improvements in the Churchill Bar, but these are subject to satisfactory cost and the approval of the General Committee. With the help of a Member who has a lifetime of brewing expertise, I will be developing a scheme to tidy up the beer kegs and chillers in the kitchen corridor. The current chaotic arrangement is a serious concern.

Over the Christmas and New Year's period, we carried out some improvements to the cricket nets. We still need some additional canvas for the low screen at the bowlers' end and are trying to procure this as soon as possible. Apart from that, the work is complete. The improvements largely consist of safety-related features, but we did add a plinth for the players to put their water dispenser on. An absolute luxury! The nets have been a very popular facility, and it is encouraging to see the large numbers of cricketers using them. The side boarding for the multi-use court should be delivered later in January.

The roof repairs were all completed late in December, and we will now wait for a very heavy downfall of rain to see if the leaks have been satisfactorily dealt with. The contractor's 'Defects Liability Period' expires on 18 June, so we should get some heavy rain before then.

The area between the tennis courts and Suriwongse Road will soon be cleared of rubbish and debris. We are examining the possibility of building a workshop and storage facility between the trees. This would provide much needed additional space by allowing areas and rooms in other locations to be vacated so that they can be used more productively.

Several members have recently come to me with interesting suggestions, and I hope I have given these the thought they deserve. Please continue to make suggestions. The Club belongs to you, the Members, and it is important that your views are seriously considered.

All for now,

John Boisclair
Development & Facility Manager

BAZZA'S BANTER



Dear Members,

Here we are already in the month of February.

We're starting out with some lovely jazz on the Back lawn with our 'Music in the Park' on February 7th, with great music by Colonel Somkiat and his jazz band, as well as fun for the kids by Khun Susie and a barbecue menu by Khun Laak. There'll also be a beer garden and Pimms stall on hand.

This month sees the return of the Club's bar quiz and the monthly wine tasting. Also, Shrove Tuesday is on February 16th, so we are going to create a special pancake menu available in the Verandah for lunch and dinner times. The menu will feature all kinds of sweet and savoury pancakes, and we will also have a few roast joints and salads.

Starting at 6.30pm that same evening, we will be organising a few pancake races and novelty races for all the family. There's no fee to enter, but all food and beverages will be charged to your accounts, and please do register beforehand, as this helps us ensure that we have enough medals and prizes.

To celebrate Valentine's Day on Sunday, 14th February, we have booked places on the evening cruise of the teal rice barge, *The Tashneeya Loy Nava*. This is a beautiful antique rice barge, the food will be excellent and capacity is 40 persons. See the ad elsewhere in *Outpost* for more details. We also are fortunate enough to have the very talented Heather Small here in concert on 26th February. This will be a excellent event and very popular. Again, see the ad in this issue for more details.

In this month's edition of *Outpost*, you will see that we are looking back on Christmas Day, the Kids' Christmas Party, New Year's Day, the polar swim and more. It seems such a long time ago now, but these were really fun events and were all well attended. We will have lots more events, and we're planning new ones for you over the rest of the year. Coming up, we have

our St David's and St Patrick's buffets, the Easter egg hunt and much, much more!

Wednesdays' paella nights continue throughout February. Paella has proven to be very popular and is also available for takeaway. And don't forget that most of the items on all the menus are available for takeaway; simply order at the Club's outlets.

12th February is the opening of the Winter Olympics in Calgary, so our regular Friday buffet will have a Canadian theme. On 27th March, we are off once again to Muang Thong Thani to see *Disney on Ice*; the show has an English soundtrack. We have booked excellent seats at 1,600 baht per person. Places are limited, and transport leaves the Club at 9.30am.

And get ready for the legendary Tom Jones in concert on March 21st. We've booked a limited amount of tickets, which will include transport from the Club. We'll have more information on this great event in March's *Outpost*.

If you have any special function that you need catered, please consider the Club's very flexible catering services; we cater an average of 400 functions per year. Contact Khun Somboon, Khun Apple or me for more information.

If you have any friends interested in joining the Club, please contact Khun Vindu or me. The Member-Get-Member programme is still going, and we will be able to give you all the details.

Have a great February, and I look forward to seeing you around the Club!

Regards,
Bazza

BOOK FOR SALE

Copies of the 6th edition of "De Mortuis: the story of the Chiang Mai Foreign Cemetery" are now available. This edition has notes and stories of the 150 persons buried in the foreigners' cemetery since 1898; more than forty entries have been added in the last ten years and it now runs to more than one hundred pages. "De Mortuis" is an interesting pocket history of some aspects of Chiang Mai life and of some of the foreigners who lived and died there.

Priced at 200 baht per copy, it is available at the Cemetery, The Pub, Tuskers, The Writers Club, Darling Wine Bar, Gymkhana Club and other locations in Chiang Mai. Or, by post from the

honorary treasurer, A. C TUCKER, PO BOX 228 CMU, CHIANG MAI 50202, THAILAND.

Cheques made payable to "A. C Tucker" as follows, 230 baht (mailed to Thailand), Pound Sterling 5.50, and US\$ 9.00 (worldwide). These donations to cemetery funds are used for maintenance and upkeep.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th Music in the Park

We are celebrating the cool season here in Thailand by inviting Colonel Somkiat and his jazz band to perform on the Back lawn from 4-7pm. Khun Suzie will be on hand to provide games and activities to keep the kids occupied. Khun Laak is creating a special barbecue menu for the event and Somboon and his team will run the Beer Garden and Pimms Stall. All food and beverage consumption and charged to Members individual accounts. There is no entry fee for this event, but we ask members to please sign up in advance as this helps us judge expected numbers to cater for. To book, sign up at Clubhouse reception or send a fax or email to the Club.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd Tetley Smooth Flow Bar Quiz

The British Club Quiz will be held in the Verandah at 7.30pm. As usual, Bangkok's premier Quizmaster, Rodney Bain, will be asking four rounds of nineteen questions (on a range of subjects from 'Asia' to 'Celebrities'), each ending in the dreaded 'Common Denominator'. Prizes go to First, Second, Third and 'Second-to-Last'. There are also three 'between-round' questions, sponsored by Crown Worldwide Relocations, where your team has the chance to win drinks. So get a team of friends (up to six, with at least one Club member per team) to come along and join in the fun, or just pop along to see if we can fit you in!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14th Romantic Valentine's Dinner Cruise

Celebrate Valentine's night with your loved one on the historic Chao Phraya River – The River of Kings – with Loy Nava Dinner Cruises. Enjoy a romantic candlelit dinner, surrounded by stars, twinkling lights, the floral atmosphere and the dulcet sounds of a traditional Thai kim and Thai classical dancing, while gently gliding down the river. To make a reservation, please sign up at the club reception or for more information, please contact Khun Apple or Barry. Limited number of seats available to maintain the romantic atmosphere.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day Races: Flippin' Good Fun For all The Family

To celebrate Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day), Khun Reed and his guys are organising a range of fun games for the whole family on the Back lawn, and there are medals for the lucky winners. There is no charge for the event, but we ask you to please sign up to help us with the seating arrangements. Khun Laak has planned a delicious pancake buffet, and a full bar will be available (buffet and bar will be charged to Members' individual accounts).

Free health resources for new residents



- 1 Get *Healthy Living in Bangkok: A Guide for New Residents*, a 24-page booklet written by local doctors and infectious disease specialists.

Email us at the address below and we'll send it to you.

- 2 Subscribe to *Better Health*, our colorful quarterly magazine. You can pick up your free copy at our hospital, or we'll send it to your home.



- 3 Join our Healthy Living Club. As a member you'll receive savings up to 30%. It's available to residents of Thailand and membership is free when you get one of our popular check-ups*



- at Bumrungrad. 4 You can review the credentials of hundreds of specialists on our website. And find the cost of common procedures (probably less than half what you paid back home) at www.bumrungrad.com/realcost.

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TRAVEL WRITING WORKSHOP

Have you thought about turning your travel experiences into articles? If you've ever considered travel writing for personal satisfaction or for publication, but are unsure where to start, this could be the workshop for you.

Paul Sochaczewski is holding his popular travel-writing workshop, *The Sharing Your Journey: Travel Writing with Style*, at the Neilson Hays Library, on 22nd February.

Paul is a dynamic and creative facilitator with more than six hundred by-lined articles published in the *International Herald Tribune*, *Wall Street Journal*, *CNN Traveller*, *Geographical*, *Reader's Digest*, *Travel and Leisure*, *DestinAsian*, *International Wildlife* and many other publications. He has held workshops at the library before, and they are always fully booked.

"You've fought with crocodiles in the Philippines and meditated in a frigid cave in Ladakh. You met your soul mate

in an opium-infused village in Laos. You played poker with the last Vietnamese elephant hunter.

"You want to share your journey, but perhaps you aren't too sure how to start, what to say, how to make it interesting for other people."
— Paul Sochaczewski

Through a mix of methods, including 'Ten Tips for Reader Intimacy', Paul will lead the group through writing tasks that will result in everyone having the beginnings of a personal travel story.

The Sharing Your Journey: Travel Writing with Style takes place between 9am and 5pm at the Neilson Hays Library. Numbers are limited to 14 people, so sign up early, as previous sessions have always sold out. The cost is 2,100 baht for library members and early-bird booking by February 10. The later booking fee is 2,300 baht. The fee includes lunch and coffee breaks. To register, call 02 233 1731.



Enjoy a relaxing afternoon of jazz music by Colonel Somkiat and his band. Complete with a variety of delicious condiments, as well as your favourite drinks.

SUNDAY, 7th February 2010
4.00 pm - 7.00 pm
BACK LAWN, THE BRITISH CLUB
Please sign up for your seat now
FREE OF CHARGE!

Please note that food and beverage expenses will be charged to your account.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The children's annual Christmas party took place at the Club on Thursday, 17th December, and was attended by over 170 children and parents. There were over 30 activities to keep the kids entertained including the bouncy castle, Susie's crafts and activities, pottery lessons, darts, hook the duck, lucky dips and lots more. There was also a puppet show and a magic show. Tea was served at 5pm on the front lawn, and that was followed by a visit from Santa, bearing gifts for all the kids.



CHRISTMAS DAY

Wow, what a Christmas day we had here at the Club! We catered for 300 people for lunch, 20 food deliveries and two private functions. Khun Eakasit was here from 10pm on Christmas Eve cooking turkeys for the big day. We fed 40 in the Churchill Bar, 85 in the Verandah and 170 outside on the back lawn. The staff left work at 10pm on Christmas Eve and were all back on duty by 7am. This was really a team event, with staff from all departments of the Club helping out.

The atmosphere was fantastic to entertain the kids – we had pony rides, Susie and her team with crafts and activities, pottery by Clay-Play Company, Jack with his walk-around magic and a visit by Santa Claus. Also present on Christmas Day was young Natasha Sacchi, our competition winner for the December Outpost cover competition, and she was presented with her very own framed copy.

The first members arrived at the Club at 11.30am, and the last members from lunchtime were still here at the Club at 11pm. Well done to all the staff who really made this event. And many thanks to all the members who came along and celebrated Christmas here at the Club. Christmas time is my favourite time of year, and this was one to remember for all the right reasons. It really is a fantastic day for all the family. We already have 25 booked for next Christmas Day!



st david's society of bangkok ST DAVID'S BALL 2010

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LLOYD DAVIES
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A LOVELY DAY WITH BAAN KRU NOI

By Apple

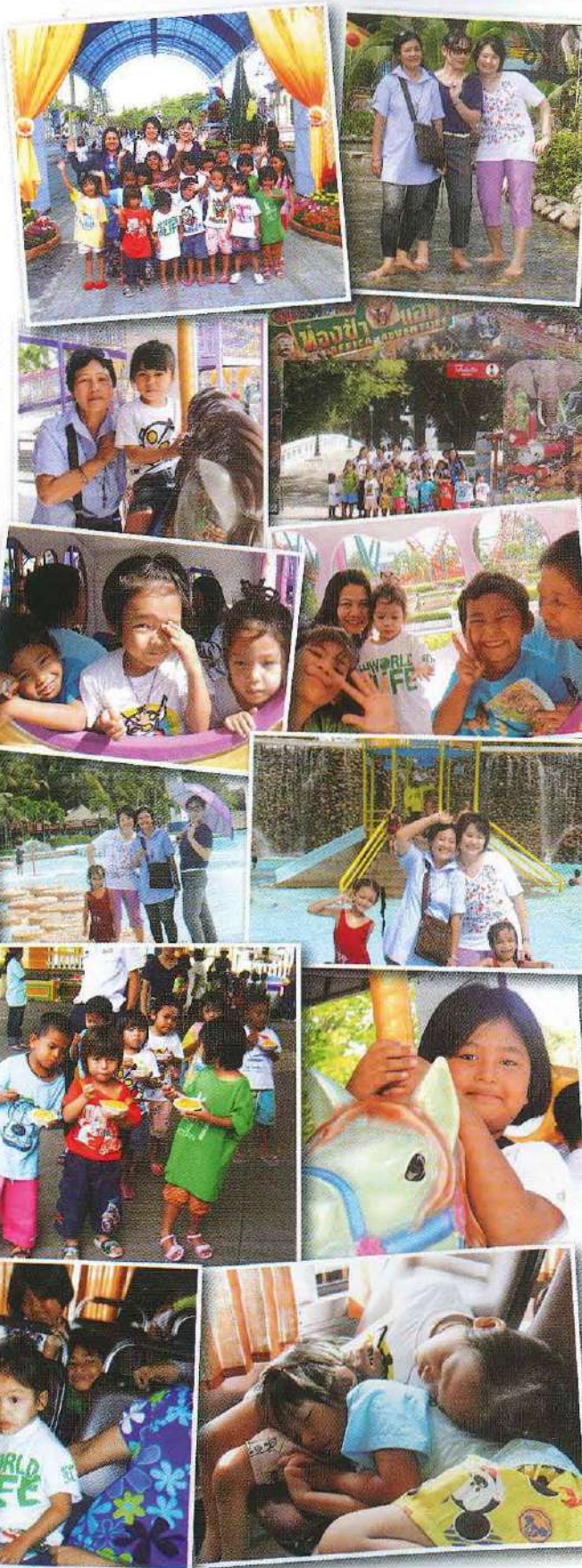


On Saturday, 19th December, the British Club contributed a Christmas party to the children at Home of Hugs with a trip to Siam Park City, an area amusement and water park. Twenty children and two teachers of Baan Kru Noi attended the party, and everyone was looking forward to getting there quickly! Some of them even had their own wonderful plan in mind on the drive there, listing the amusement rides and arranging their schedule in order to get on the coolest ones... and they would NOT miss a single ride out there. I can not describe how pleased they were!

Starting the day by travelling through the African wild forest, we were all so excited to see the various kinds of enormous animals, and then we moved on to the rides park for their further amusement until lunch. We made a good arrangement with Suan Siam to provide us a spectacular luncheon buffet, and everyone enjoyed it so much.

The last highlight of the day: every child of Baan Kru Noi amazingly had the same request – to go swimming in Siam Park's big water park! Everyone enjoyed themselves and had a lot of fun out there for a few more hours before returning back to their Home of Hugs.

On behalf of them, we would like to pass on the gratitude of the Baan Kru Noi Foundation to the British Women's Group, who made a dream of these little children come true.



Supported by BIG Organization

An Evening with Heather Small

Live

in support of Melissa Cosgrove

CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Friday 26th February The British Club Lawns

DOORS OPEN 7PM

Advance tickets available NOW at The British Club

£ 2,000 - Standard Ticket (Inc. 2 Drinks). Buy 10 tickets and get 1 FREE!
£ 5,000 - VIP Ticket (Free flow till 8.30pm, Entry to VIP Area + meet Heather in person)

For more information and ticket enquiries contact: ruskiecleaver@gmail.com
Or call: Thai: 084-352-0309 / English: 084-352-0299

Also performing at Centara Grand, Pattaya, Sat 27th February / KC Resort, Koh Samui, Tue 2nd March (More dates tbc)

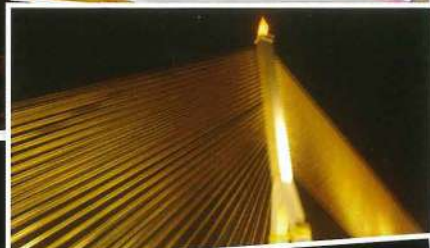
www.mccf.uk.com www.bigorganization.ning.com www.heathersmallmusic.com

These concerts are not a commercial venture - All proceeds go to MCCF



NEW YEAR'S CRUISE

The final event of 2009 was the Club's annual New Year's Cruise, which was once again jointly organised by the St Patrick's Society. Many thanks to Gale Wright and Des Kimmert for helping with this event. 138 Members and guests attended the event that started with an open bar and canapés at the Riverside at 9pm, followed by boarding the Chaopraya Princess at 10pm for a four-hour cruise. Once on board, there was a free bar for another two hours, plus the delicious international buffet. The disco was excellent, and the dance floor was packed all night. Well done to our DJ, the Club's very own Mr Mike Allin. The fireworks at midnight were spectacular as usual, and we still had another two hours of dancing to go! This really is an excellent way to see in the new year.



ROMANTIC VALENTINE'S DINNER CRUISE

Celebrate valentine's night with your loved one & enjoy a romantic candlelit dinner, surrounded by stars, twinkling lights, the floral atmosphere while gently gliding down the river...

*10 course Thai traditional dinner
Glass of Champagne or Kir Royale for each person
Bottle of Wine per couple
Valentine's dessert for each couple
Glass of sweet dessert wine for each person*

*14th February 2010
Transport leaves at 7.00 pm.
Start sailing at 8.10 pm.
THB 3,200 per person*



Limited number of places to maintain the romantic atmosphere



POLAR SWIM

The 3rd Polar swim started 2010 with a bang (or at least a splash!) – almost 100 members came early on New Year's Day to do something that most people would never dream of... swim in an ice-filled pool... in Bangkok.

This year's turnout was fantastic, with numerous new faces enjoying the B.C at its best.

Thank you to all the staff and members for creating a great family atmosphere to start the year.

See you all poolside in 2010!



PAST PARTICIPLE

Auspicious Melioris Aevi

By Paul Cheesman



We continue our peek into our Club's past as we look at events of 1948....

1 The staff of the British Club Bangkok has always been our greatest asset, and it was our unflinching practice in days gone by to reward them well. At the first Committee meeting of 1948, it was decided to instigate an annual bonus, payable each Chinese New Year, being a thirteenth month's salary paid to all staff. This was paid for out of a levy placed on each club member. It is interesting to note that this practice remained undisturbed for nearly sixty years until the 'powers that be' sought to meddle with it.

2 Initially, upon re-opening in 1946, the only ladies allowed into the Club were the wives of members. In our first rulebook of 1947, we allowed 'Ladies Privileges', a means by which unmarried ladies of a member's family could use the Club. In 1948, we extended this access to the Club all 'British' ladies, upon introduction by a member. This understanding was to last for the next 38 years until ladies were, eventually, allowed to hold membership in their own right.

3 From 9th to 21st February 1948, the Lawn Tennis Association of Siam gained Club permission to host its 2491 Annual Championships in the Club. This was of great esteem to members, and seats for viewing were quickly over-subscribed. The Committee allocated Courts 1 through 4 for the Championships (we had eight courts in those days) and closed the Club's main entrance (the Suriwongse Road gate); entry was limited to the back door, being the Silom Road gate. Sadly, the results of said Championship were lost in the annals of time, but it is recorded that a good time was had by all.

4 If 1947 was the year of the first (post-war) rulebook, 1948 was the year of the 'countless amendments', with a packed AGM and a subsequent EGM. Seven changes were made over the months, two of which were significant:

The first 'major' change was the introduction of an instalment payment scheme, entitled 'Non-Voting membership', which was set up to be paid over four quarters, so as to encourage younger members of the British community to join. A similar system still exists today.

The second was to regulate 'guests', as it was noted by the committee that many people eligible to join did not do so, choosing to simply be a guest of a member. The limit was set at use of the Club twice a month, which rapidly moved to three times in any year – a situation that remained, until 2005, more honoured in the breach than in the observance!

5 1948 ended with two events of significance... First, we were connected to the telephone for the first time, the Post and Telegraph Department issuing us with the number of 40247 – a number still in use 62 years later!

Secondly, in 'usual' Club practice, the year ended with its Annual Christmas ball, set for December 18th, but this year with 'in-house catering'. Now it must be understood that the Club had no kitchens at all; to the rear of the Men's Bar, there was a little pantry used for making snacks such as 'Sardines on Biscuits' and 'Cheese on Biscuits', and that was it. The Ball, however, was an outstanding success as the ladies served 'Soup followed by Ham & Eggs or Sausage & Mash'!

The Author was Vice-Chairman of the Club from 2001 to 2003 and Honorary Secretary from 2000 to 2003 and in 2006 and 2007.



MEMBER UPDATE

The contact information for Member Angus McKernan of the Pipe Band Section has changed.

Please revise as follows:
Email: angus.mckernan@gmail.com
Mobile: 087 035 2252

SOI CATS AND DOGS (SCAD) BLADE... OR "MINI" ZADE... ...DEPENDING ON YOUR PREFERENCE!



Blade aka Mini-Zade



Blade in his improvised incubator



Blade suckling from his improvised mum!

The scruffy, sad-eyed female dog waited patiently in her cage at SCAD, no doubt wondering what was about to become of her. Part of a capture, neuter, return (CNR) project* run by SCAD, she had been picked up by the team and was waiting her turn to be spayed at SCAD's Health Centre. If only she knew now that this operation was about to relieve her of the burden of litter after litter of pups that she would struggle to nurture, thanks to her life as one of Bangkok's many soi dogs, she would perhaps have been wagging her tail in anticipation of a better life to come!

An unconventional birth

The vet made his expert incision – a tiny cut from which she would soon recover – and immediately saw that she was nearly full term with a tiny puppy. Under normal circumstances, the pregnancy is detected straight away, but poor mum dog's sagging belly attested to many previous pregnancies, and so this single foetus was almost impossible to feel. The little scrap was whisked out and handed immediately to SCAD vet nurse, Lauren, who gently encouraged the little mite to breathe. Thanks to the precarious nature of his unconventional birth, the team named him "Blade"!

Hamster or pup?

More like a hamster than a pup, Blade was soon wrapped up warm and safe in an improvised incubator – a coolie bag, lined with foil and a soft blanket. In need of food every two hours, and unable to be back with his mum due to her operation, the SCAD team was in action day and night to make sure this little chap had a chance at a happy and healthy life. The first few days are critical for hand-reared pups, but Blade was taking no prisoners – if he didn't get his feed on time, he sure let us all know about it, squealing like... well, a baby.

The 'rubber' route!

Feeding such a tiny one is difficult, but a condom does the trick (a shame the mummy dog's partner didn't know about them!). Blade's carers may have been embarrassed at purchasing the packs of three, but Blade didn't care – a pinprick or two in the end, filled up with warm baby milk, and he was soon suckling away. In fact, suckling so well that he soon earned his new nickname of "mini" Zade, named after adoptable SCAD dog Zade, who is suffering from a few weight issues and is almost identical in colouring to Blade!



Hamster or puppy?



Now in foster care

Little Blade is doing extremely well and is currently in foster care with a SCAD supporter. Once he is old enough, he will be available for adoption from the SCAD Centre. His mum is back on her soi, along with her other street friends – hopefully happier, healthier and able to enjoy a better quality of life than before her operation.

Could you be a foster parent?

Are you missing your pets from back home? You can become part of SCAD's foster home network too... all the joys of pet ownership without the long-term responsibility – a perfect solution. Email adoptions@scadbangkok.org for more details.

For more information about SCAD, please visit our website: www.scadbangkok.org.

Want to help? For volunteer opportunities, please email: volunteer@scadbangkok.org.

* Established in 2002, SCAD (an acronym for Soi Cats And Dogs) is a not-for-profit organisation with realistic goals: to reduce the number and improve the lives of Bangkok's strays through targeted community CNR projects and, in so doing, create a happier and healthier environment for all to enjoy.



Blade – eyes just opened on a bright new world!

BRITISH CLUB CATS... BEING 'SNIPPED' IN THE BUD!

SCAD and the British Club have linked up again to spay, neuter and vaccinate the local population of cats. A stable population of neutered cats is a benefit to all – healthier, cleaner cats will keep out new interlopers, in the form of other felines, and are also adept at keeping our Club free from vermin, such as rats and even snakes. Thank you to the committee at the British Club for supporting this CNR project.

BC CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. Music in the Park Back lawn Lunch only. 3pm.	1 Monday Night Club <i>A Caribbean Mystery</i> Wordsworth Lounge 7pm. 	2 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch and Dinner. Quiz Night Sponsored by Tetley's Smooth Flow The Verandah 7.30pm. 	3 Artists at the BC 9am-12.30pm. Paella & Sangria Specials All F&B outlets. All day.		5 Curry Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.	6 Netball Junior Coaching Back lawn 3pm.
7 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. Music in the Park Back lawn Lunch only. 3pm.	8 Monday Night Club <i>The Sign of Four</i> Wordsworth Lounge 7pm. 	9 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.	10 Artists at the BC 9am-12.30pm. Paella & Sangria Specials All F&B outlets. All day.		12 Canadian Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.	
14 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. Romantic Valentine's Dinner Cruise Transport leaves Club at 7pm.	15 Monday Night Club <i>Evil Under the Sun</i> Wordsworth Lounge 7pm. 	16 Pancake Day Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races Back lawn 6.30-8.30pm.	17 Artists at the BC 9am-12.30pm. Paella & Sangria Specials All F&B outlets. All day.	18	19 Greek Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.	
21 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only.	22 Sports Camp 10am. Monday Night Club <i>Nemesis</i> Wordsworth Lounge 7pm. 	23 Sports Camp 10am. Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.	24 Artists at the BC 9am-12.30pm. Sports Camp 10am. Paella & Sangria Specials All F&B outlets. All day.	25 Sports Camp 10am.	26 Sports Camp 10am. Mediterranean Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.	27
28 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only.	1	2		4		6

RECIPROCAL CLUBS

As an active British Club member, you are entitled to enjoy the full use of other associated Club facilities around the world. This month, we feature The Naval, Military & Air Force Club of South Australia in Adelaide.



The Naval, Military & Air Force Club of South Australia

111 Hutt Street Adelaide SA 5000.

Phone: +61 8 8223 2422

Fax: +61 8 8232 3082

Email: admin@navmil.org

Website: www.navmil.org

The Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South Australia was formed in 1879 as "The Militia Officers' Club of South Australia" in the old barracks behind the present State Library. In 1894, the name was changed to the "Naval and Military Club of South Australia" with the introduction of the South Australian Naval Officers and to encourage a wider range of membership. To fully reflect the membership of the time, "Air Force" was added in 1943. Our Club began in 1879 when Colonel Francis Downes, the then-Commandant of the State Defence Forces, formed the Militia Officers' Club of South Australia. The location was the old barracks behind the present State Public Library, and its function was to provide an infrastructure for the education of the officers in the State in military matters, by lectures and by the establishment of a library. It also provided social functions for Members.

Accommodation

The Club has recently refurbished its boutique-style accommodation, which provides four elegantly, well-appointed en-suite rooms at most competitive rates for members, guests and Reciprocal Club visitors. A choice of continental in-room or full breakfast is offered. The adjacent TV/Reading Lounge and Kitchenette are available for in-house guests.

Club Dining Room

Members with their guests enjoy the highest quality service for dinners and luncheons in the elegant, comfortable surroundings of the superb formal Dining Room. The Club offers an excellent and ever changing a la carte menu, complemented by a wine list that includes a wide representation of the world renowned South Australian wine districts as well as other significant Australian areas. Pre-dinner drinks and coffee and liqueurs after meals may be taken in the classic ambience of the Imperial Room. The Club's many formal dinners and events are held in these areas.

Informal Dining

The richly panelled ambience of the Members Bar reflects the Club's Service history and is an ideal and popular place for Members to meet their friends for a drink. Delicious, light Bar Menu luncheons and dinners are also available.

The Colonel Downes, Gallipoli and Air Force Rooms offer alternative venues for drinks and light meals or entree luncheons

in a quiet and select atmosphere. These rooms are also available for private dinners, cocktail parties or functions to suit individual member or group needs.

Bar

For a quiet drink or to celebrate with friends and other members, your Club offers the Members Bar located on the ground floor. The Members Bar offers a more casual social environment where dress standards will be relaxed to allow for neat casual dress (excluding jeans) for Members, dispensing with the jacket and tie requirement. A large plasma screen at the bar and the billiards room next door make it a perfect retreat or to join friends for a game of billiards or snooker.

Library

The Fowler-Brownsworth Library on the upper landing of the Club premises contains an extensive collection of non-fiction and fiction, which Members may either read in the Library or take home after entering the details of the book and their name in the register contained in the Library.

Billiards Room

The 2 immaculate full-size tables are popular with members and their guests, especially at lunchtimes and after dinner.

Business Facilities

To meet your business requirements, the Club also provides a full line-up of audio-visual equipment including state-of-the-art multimedia presentation facilities. A fully equipped individual workstation is available for Member use on the first floor landing. The Club offers free use of a computer and printer to access both the internet and your personal emails. Meeting rooms are also available for your use. Please make this your office away-from-the-office with our efficient services and facilities (bookings essential).

Other business facilities available to Members who book Business Facilities are:

- Photocopying and local faxing - free of charge from the Administration Office
- Local telephone calls - free of charge from the Administration Office and the Boardroom
- Personal message service - receive faxes and telephone messages from the Administration Office

Note:

Please contact Membership Services for an introduction letter.

Phone: 02 234 0247

Email: membership@britishclubbangkok.org

Junior Netball

Season starts on
Saturday, 6th February
3.00 pm (8 weeks)

THB 1,500 per child
includes THB 500 of food & drinks,
medals, cakes, free parking
and coaching.

For further information,
contact Mr Reed Passmore
at Reed@britishclubbangkok.org
or Tel. 080 770 6156

SPORTS & LEISURE

By Reed Passmore

Eat right – Exercise regularly – Stay healthy – Enjoy life.



Time flies when you're having fun. It's already February 2010, which means we must be having loads of fun!! It seems like only last week that we were celebrating Christmas, New Year's and the polar swim.

Speaking of New Year's, how are those New Year's resolutions coming along?? Is it time to come and see Khun Amnat to whip you into shape or pick up a racquet and start playing tennis or squash?? There's no time like the present to get fit, get healthy and/or lose weight.



Upcoming activities and events:

Netball Junior Coaching: Saturday, 6th February, 3pm, on the Back lawn. Junior netball is a fun, social activity run by BC members, staff and volunteers. Netball for boys and girls, 6-12 years, BC members and non-members. Term is 8 weeks. Members – 1,000 baht and non-members – 1500 baht (prices include food and drink coupons).

Bangkok Bike Ride: Sunday, 7th February, 9am-12.30pm. The British Club is teaming up with Co Van Kessel Bike Tours and invites you to come on a relaxing bike ride and see Bangkok's hidden secrets, long-tail boats and enjoy a beautiful Thai lunch over the canals (Bangkok is the Venice of the East, after all). The cost is 1,350 baht.

Water Polo: Sunday, 14th February, 3pm. The shallow end of the pool will be closed from 3-4pm for another family water polo event. Adults can play from 4-5pm at the deeper end. Family rules, fun, free, outdoors and healthy. Rules will be given out on the day.

Sports Camp: 22nd-26th February. Full sports camp for ages 5-12 years. Tennis, swimming, water activities, bouncy castle, squash, football, cricket, plus a fun day on Friday – ten-pin bowling.



March

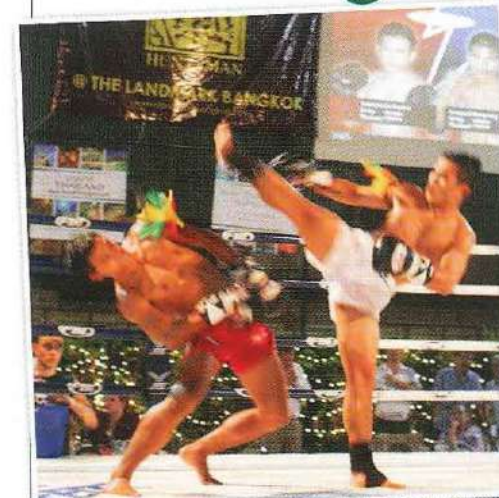
Family 4-a-Side Football: Sunday, 7th March, 3pm kickoff. 4-a-side football. Great family fun for all levels. Family rules (two children under 11 years and at least one female on the team). The cost of 1,100 baht per team includes winning trophies, medals, sausage sizzle and cake.

BAAN TALING NGAM
Beach Resort & Spa
SAMUI • THAILAND

travel
THAILAND

2009: WHAT A YEAR!

THE LANDMARK
BANGKOK



travel
THAILAND



BAAN TALING NGAM
Beach Resort & Spa
SAMUI • THAILAND

SQUASHY BITS

By Bruce Madge, bmadge@hotmail.com

Happy Valentine's!

Couldn't make the section Christmas bash in December, as I was busy working just around the corner, yet I managed to see and hear everything, as I have extraordinary powers of perception, as I used to be a wizard-like cat weasel.

Peter: Aren't these new 250th BCB Squash League commemorative shirts lovely? Well done, Bob, for getting them designed and made.

Bob: I'm not a giraffe or a camel, ok? Thanks, Peter, and yes, they're lovely.

Brian: And I'm not off to Indonesia, either. I'm going to Malaysia. Great shirts.

Duncs: I've been to Indonesia. Went there by ship. You'll like it there, Brian. These new shirts are fab.

Dean: Yeah, India's a fantastic place. Great curries. I like these new shirts.

Brian: It's Malaysia! Not Indonesia! Not India!

Nick: All right, all right! Don't have a cow. Malaysia, it is. Brilliant shirts. Good work, Bob.

Bob: I want to make it perfectly clear that I'm not a camel, ok? Thanks, Nick. You travel a lot, don't you? Have you ever been to Malaysia?

Nick: Yes, I have. In fact, I've been to most countries around the world, either on holiday or business. You got any holiday plans for next year, Bob?

Bob: Thought I might try Egypt.

Marvyn: Egypt? You sure you're not a cam...anyway, you should try Wales. Love these new shirts—great quality and design.

Jack: Don't start about Wales, please. Yes, fine shirts. Come on, guys, let's reflect on the year. You know, best, worst, most, etc.

Peter: Great idea, Jack. Where to start? Best player? Well, that's got to be H, but best champ must be Ja for winning the Club title again.

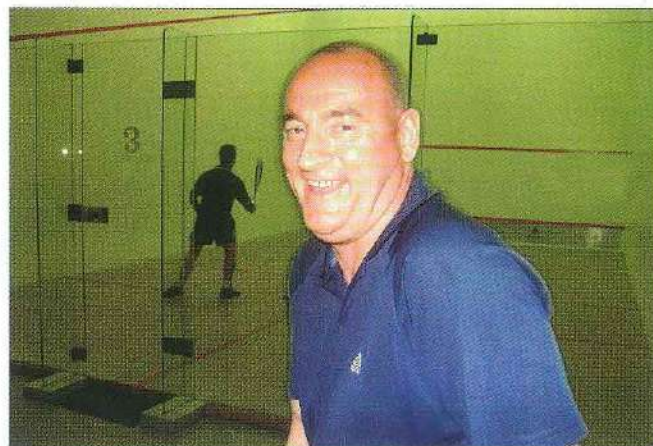
David: I've no complaints with that, but then again, the biggest loss and upset must be Ja to H in their first league match: 0-9, 0-9, 1-9!

Gaynor: H? Ja? Who are these people? I think the biggest win is me, for winning my first-ever match today against Reed. Nice shirts, by the way.

J. Lo: Fair point. Super shirts. Who's the most improved player of the year, then?

H: I reckon it's Camel. Er, I mean Bob. He's really come along this year. Yes, these new shirts are the best I've ever worn in all my glorious career.

Bob: Keep this under your hat, Duncs, but the biggest wally of the year is H. He's only been here a few months, so can't speak Thai, but Bruce can, and really well. In fact, he can even read and write Thai. So Bruce tricked him by....



Duncs: Can he? I always had him down as a bit of an idiot. He speaks Thai really well, does he? And is able to read and write it. Wow, that's pretty impressive, isn't it? Maybe he's not such an idiot after all. I mean, most of us can't speak a word of it, even though we've been here for years.

Bob: Speak for yourself, pal. Listen. H asked Bruce where he could get some decent work shirts, so Bruce sent him to Central Chitlom. Said to ask for shirts by a new Taiwanese designer called Ken Yao. H went there asking for Ken Yao shirts, and the sales assistant showed him all the shirts with long sleeves! Hundreds of 'em! Hilarious! Apparently, H got all embarrassed and came back with just a pair of socks! What a wally!

Tom G: Oh, that's good: Ken Yao; long sleeves; pair of socks; H, a right wally. You guys are funny; always kidding each other. I love my new shirt, too.

H: Yeah, that's real funny, Bob. Well, you're down for the biggest deficit in any match when you won only 7 points to my 84 in the handicap, and I take back what I said about 'most improved'. Just clear off to Egypt, will ya?

Peter: Now, now, lads. Come on, it's Christmas. Don't let the drink do the talking.

Rit: Is there any Beer Lao? I love Beer Lao. Maybe more than I love my new squash shirt. Can I have another one?

Nick: Shirt or beer, Rit? Here David, you're down for the best nickname. You heard? They call you 'Fire Exit'. Or 'Fire Escape'. Sometimes 'Loading Bay' or even 'Cat Flap'. Play-on-words on your surname, Eastgate. Madge started it. You know what his imagination's like. What d'ya think, Fire Exit?

Fire Exit: Can't complain. But you know what the most ridiculous comment of the year was? It was when you said there's nothing worse than being bitten by an ant! What are these amazing new shirts made from? A polyester blend?

Reed: An ant? I can think of plenty of things worse than an ant, Nick: like a black widow spider or a King Cobra. Nice shirts. What does polyester mean?

Wayne: Or a rattlesnake or a bobcat or a damn coyote. Awesome shirts!

Marc: How about a Rottweiler or a pit bull? Matey, these new shirts are the best.

Brian: How about a leopard or a tiger? Or a flaming lion? More wine, please, Rit.

Marvyn: I think Nick's right. I know a guy who had his head bitten off by a great white shark, yet survived, but I heard of a whole family whose house was built on an ants' nest, and they were all bitten to death one evening!

Gaynor: Hey Ant, sling us over another lager, will ya? I won a match! I'm the best. Yeah, more beer. Let's all get smashed. It's Christmas, and I won!

Ant: All right, all right! Well, at least I didn't make the worst decision of the year. That goes to Evans for taking his family on holiday to Scotland during the worst British winter in 647 years. He's been snowed in all week. Bet he didn't think about that when he trotted off to the Thomas Cook with his 'Let's Do Glasgow' tucked smugly under his arm!

JCS: Crickey! Awfully chilly there. Much rather be here. Marvellous shirts. Super quality. Come on, Rit. Do hurry up with the beer. I'm parched. What say you, Marc, old chap? Do you have a superlative to add to the crowd?

Marc: Mate, the best punch-up's got to be between me and Brucey awhile back in the sala. He'd had a few and tried to tell me the best way to groom a cat. He reckoned you hold it in your mouth by its tail, then brush from back to front. He was quite adamant about it. Mate, I've had cats for years, and let me tell you that the best way to groom a cat is to lay it on its back, kneel on it, then brush from head to tail. He wouldn't have it; stormed off in a huff. We made up later, but, ya know, mate, it was, well... a bit much.

Ignacio: Hey, Señor Peter. Say something in Dutch. What a shirt. More beer over here!

Peter: Niet mijn vlechten kijken felchieng? Means, "Don't my braids look fetching?"

Duncs: You're all drunk, you lot are. I once went to Dutch by boat. More wine here!

J. Lo: I've got a few. Ugliest player: Madge. Look at his picture. Hideous; gross. Most beautiful: Chris V. Most generous: Bob for supplying this keg of Tiger we're drinking. Best arrival: Dean's new daughter. What's her name, Dean?

Dean: I can't remember. I'll have another beer, please. No, the most generous is the BCB for buying us these new shirts we're all wearing. We've got dozens of 'em. 250 leagues, eh? How many years is that, David? I love you, Rit.

Rit: Can't we get some Beer Lao? I don't like Tiger, even if it is free.

Fire Exit: Stop moaning, Rit. I can't tolerate whingers. About twenty, Dean. You're a bit quiet, Jack. Something on your mind? May I have another Coke Zero?

Jack: Biggest regret: giving Squashy Bits to Madge. What has he written?

Bob: I agree. A camel?! What goes through his mind when he sits down to write?



New shirts.

Ant: Ants. There's nothing worse. Brian, why have your got tongue in H's ear?

H: Get off me, you drunken slob. Thought you were going to India. That's got to be the most welcome departure of the year. Just go, will ya?!

Brian: I'm going to Colombia! And I'm not taking my wife!

Peter: Who won the mix-in earlier, my team or Cat Flap's? I can't remember.

Cat Flap: It was my team, Cornflakes. Your lot are rubbish.

Jack: Cat Flap, take your foot of Cornflakes's head. You lot are an embarrassment.

Tom G: Hey Gaynor, what ya doin' later? Fancy going to the pictures?

Gaynor: I'm married, Tom. I can't go to the cinema with you, even if I wanted to.

Tom G: It's ok, so am I. Just tell your husband you're going to bingo with the girls.

Peter: I'll go to the pictures with you, Tom. We can sit at the back.

Dean: Yeah, let's all go to the pictures. Star Wars. Harry Potter. Lord of the R....

Marvyn: You lot are smashed. Why don't we sing the Welsh National Anthem.

Ignacio: The Mexican. Give me another Corona with a slice of lime.

JCS: Let's sing 'Land of Hope and Glory'. Just like the Last Night at the Proms. "Land of hope and glory, brother of the beast. Land of hope...and...glory... lover of the... Last Christmas, I gave you my heart, but the very next week...."

Duncs: No, no. Shut up, James. Let's sing Rod Stewart, "We are sailing, we are sailing, barmy waters, cross the sea. I can see you, can you hear us...? Barmy army, barmy army! You'll never make the station....You'll never...."

Jack: Quiet! Let's not do any of that. Let's say cheers to the BCB and thanks for our splendid new shirts and cheers to the Squash Section. Cheers!

Marc: Great idea, matey. Merry Christmas.

Rit: Sawasdee Pee Mai, Krup.

All: CHEERS!

Until next Christmas....

GOLFING NEWS

By Ray Bloom

Annual '3 clubs and putter' Competition – Sunday, 13th December, at the Subhapruek Golf Course, Bankpoo

This annual Christmas novelty event drew a sizeable turnout of 22 golfers to the beautiful Subhapruek course, where players could choose any 3 clubs, plus putter, to improvise their techniques in an individual Stableford competition.

However, before hitting the fairways, we entered into the Christmas spirit with a tipple or two of bubbly, including Captain Frank, Tracy and Belinda [1]. Similarly, Bob and Steve were in good form at the first tee [2]. Also looking cool and relaxed, JC was joined by the photogenic Tracy and Belinda toasting the Christmas season and the forthcoming round [3].

In order to play their best serious golf, four players resisted the bubbly on offer. Mike and Yurachatr were playing out their British School of Bangkok match play semi-final match, whilst Brian and Rose were contesting the Plate competition semi-final.

In 'warm' conditions, on a testing course, the final scores were quite close. In the match plays, Mike narrowly beat Yurachatr, 2 and 1, and Brian beat Rose, again 2 and 1.



The fun event result was also very close, with Andy Flynn claiming 3rd place with 34 points, John Carter filling the 2nd place with 35 points, but with 36 points, Jenny Harries returned to form with a winning score of 36 points. Well done, Jenny! In spite of Captain Frank insisting on several poses with Jenny, only one photo is included with this report [4].

There is still much conjecture about Bob Randle's antics during the after-golf presentation, but the best explanation comes from Peter Bond with "The good thing about golf is that you can forget all your worries..." [5]. Thanks, Peter. For this contribution, Peter takes 1st prize—a copy of my new book (okay, leaflet) entitled 'My Greatest Putts'.



Club Scramble – 20th December, at Rachakram Golf Club, Bangsai, Ayutthaya

On this relatively new course, north of Bangkok, we enjoyed our final scramble of the season. Although located close to the northern edge of the Outer Ring Road, two geographically-challenged players teased us with their commentaries from nearby country lanes and industrial estates before arriving breathless and flushed in time to drive off from the first tee. Andrew McLean was clearly surprised to eventually find his golfing chums, whereas John Bell had no such worries [6]. Joint sponsor of the competition Peter Bond was also offered a free copy of a road map of Bangkok!



With a full complement, we were drawn in teams of twos and threes. This was the 8th scramble event of the year and would determine the overall winner. Points had been accrued during the previous seven events with several players attempting to put in a high score to give their total a semblance of respectability.



It was an eventful round as usual, with players having to work together to determine the best ball to hit. However, Andrew and Captain Frank's pose indicated a more sinister activity on the 8th green. I'm sure you can add your own caption to this pose [7].

When all players had given their all, then showered and slaked their thirsts, the results were announced by Captain Frank – it was the pairing of Jason Triggs and joint-sponsor Bob Randle who took first place with a net score of 59 points, just beating the trio of John Bell, Andrew McLean and Captain Frank, who tied in second place with Ray Harries, Peter Skinner and me. Jason and Bob received their prizes from joint sponsor and well-known explorer Peter Bond [8].

We should all thank Bob and Peter for developing and sponsoring this enjoyable event in our golfing calendar, and we all look forward to competing again next year. Thank you, boys!



To round off this competition, I can announce the final results from the year's scramble competitions, which Peter has carefully and honestly (so he says) compiled.

And the winner is... Captain Frank with 107 points. Well done, Frank! Good to see him leading from the front.

Followed by the top 15: Steve Waldmeyer (92), Peter Bond (92), Bob Randle (88.5), Myself (69), Jason Triggs (69), Ray Harries (64), Brian Brook (61), John Bell (61), Maureen Gibson (57), Carole Ann Eastgate (52.5), Jenny Harries (51), Peter Gale (40.5), Andrew McLean (40.5) and Jack O'Flynn (28).

December Medal – 27th December, at the Royal Golf Club, Lat Krabang

With much well-wishing, slaps on backs and some spontaneous kissing (without the aid of mistletoe, I have to report), the final medal competition of the year got underway at our regular monthly venue. There was a good turnout of nine groups, teeing off from Holes 1 and 10 in great golfing conditions – in contrast to the condition of some of the players after their Christmas excesses.

However, with much fortitude, everyone put on a brave face to tackle the vagaries of this challenging course.



During the round, murmurings could be heard of some remarkable scoring by that canny (I hope that's a compliment) Scot, John Bell, and some steady and effective golf from Andrew McLean. Over the after-golf banter and refreshment, the rumours were confirmed. After bringing the chattering crowd to order, Captain Frank read out the results. In Flight B (players with handicaps of 18 and over), there were good performances from Steve Waldmeyer with a 3rd place net score of 76 and Val Ashman in 2nd place, also on 76 (but with a superior count back tally), but winning this group was Andrew McLean. Andrew took the coveted Flight B medal from Captain Frank [9].

In reading out the Flight A results, there were gasps of amazement at the winner's score. But, firstly, Frank announced that Jason Triggs had made 3rd spot with net 70 and Peter Clarke came 2nd with 69. The gasps were reserved for the announcement of John Bell's performance. After a great round of golf, John came in with an amazing net score of 61, apparently not the best-ever medal score, but still a wonderful round, and he was duly rewarded with his medal, presented by Frank [10].



The event concluded with greetings to two returning members of the Golf Section. Adrian O'Brien had first played with the British Club in 1998, then left for Malaysia in 2000, before resuming golf with the BCGS a year later. He became a regular player and served as a committee member for a couple of years, then left for Australia in 2005, where he is now living with wife, Mook, and children, Olivia and Edwin. Adrian's quote on returning for a three-week Thai break: "I recall my golf with the BC fondly, and it was great to see the Club as lively and welcoming as always".



Adrian was delighted to meet up and play with old friends. One old friend, that shy and retiring Peter Bond, was insisting on anonymity by hiding behind a menu, but you can be reassured that your secret is safe with me, Peter [11].

Normally a regular golfer with the Section, the well-known George Okrasais in recovery mode after some mysterious medical problems, but he was pleased to join us to celebrate the festive season with best wishes and hopes that he will join us again soon on the fairways and greens [12].



Club Day – Sunday, 3rd January, at the Royal Golf Club, Lat Krabang

After much discussion about the format for the day's action, Captain Frank's pre-match announcement was greeted with many questions about biscuits, soup etc. Several golfers hadn't been exposed to the delights of the 'bogey bisque' format and couldn't believe they could have the freedom to use their handicap shots whenever they wished, instead of being imposed by the handicap index at each hole.



Although an unusual format for the BCGS, we enjoyed the familiarity of our 'home course', which was in great condition again. At the close of play, all golfers agreed that it had been an interesting variation, and Captain Frank was pleased to announce a close result. In shared 3rd place, Peter Bond and I finished with +2, Peter Clarke in 2nd place achieved +4, but Peter Skinner took the winner's bottle of wine from Captain Frank with a final tally of +5 [13].

In the clubhouse restaurant after the competition, Karen was obviously hoping some of Pete's prowess would rub off onto her, and Steve was contemplating what might have been. On the far left, frequent-winner Jason was enjoying his final involvement with the group before moving away to take up a job in Malaysia. Next to him, my son, Peter, desperately missing the UK's sub-zero temperatures and snow, was a little unsure about his Phad Thai [14].



Guests and new members are welcome at all our events. Either email or phone for more information and to sign up for the next games.

Website: www.bcgolfsociety.com

Email: bcs2002@yahoo.co.uk

Phone: Frank Fawkes, Club Captain, on 089 165 1953

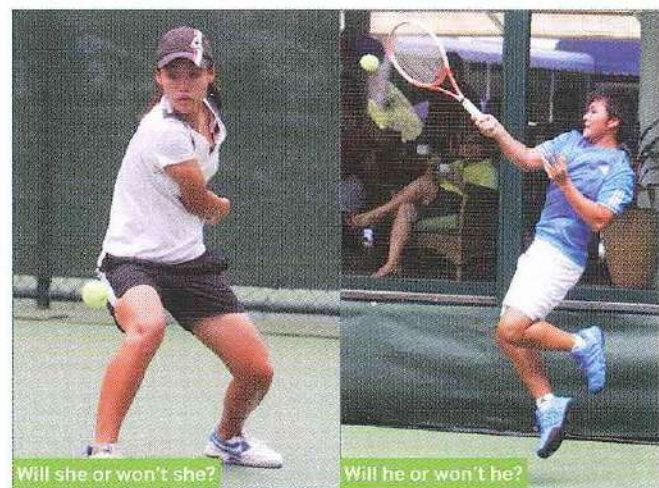
For the fortunate golfers who can and want to play a midweek round, there is friendly golf on offer every Wednesday morning with the Midweekers group (www.bkkmidweekers.com). We play most weeks at Bangkok Golf Club, Pathum Thani, where we take advantage of preferential green fees, but we travel to other courses that also offer good value. Contact me, Ray Bloom, at rbloom_364@yahoo.co.uk or 087 051 3548.

TENNIS

Tennis Championships

The Tennis Championships have now started. This is the largest Club sporting event on the calendar. If you haven't joined the event, then come out and cheer your fellow Club members on as they sweat it out on centre court.

The final: 27th March – WHO WILL WIN?!



Will she or won't she?

Will he or won't he?



7 years in a row?



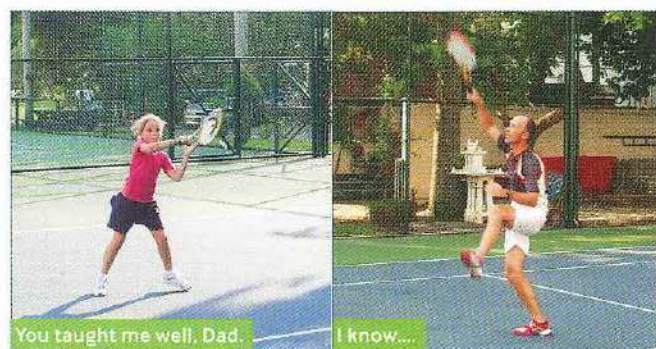
Formidable French

Harrow Invite: Friday, 5th February at 7pm.

Harrow International schoolteachers are invited to join our Friday mix-in. This is a regular mix-in with some new faces. Show your BC hospitality and buy the teachers a beer.

Beer Chang Extravaganza: Saturday, 13th February, at 4pm.

A social, challenging activity followed by a buffet dinner. There will be a mystery prize on the night. Must sign up in advance – 300 baht.



You taught me well, Dad.

I know....



Where's the ball?

Return that, dad.

QUIZ NIGHT HAPPY HUMBUG

By Fingall O'Flahertie

Rival festivities appear to have hacked into December's quiz night, with just four doughty teams getting their collective acts together to sample Chairman Rodney's seasonal brew of brain-melting punishment – a pity, because he had plenty of seasonal titbits tucked under his red cloak. Where, for example, was King Wenceslas born? And where might you be if someone wished you "Hyvaa joulaa"? Even the music rounds bore the faint tang of mulled wine and marital discord, with Simon and Garfunkel's frightful version of 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen'... enough to make sneering Scrooges of us all.

But it wasn't all mince pies and unwanted socks. Apartheid, cobalt and gonzo journalism vied with safety razors and statues of President Obama to leave all participants teetering on the tightrope between pleasure and pain. The Bangkok Gentleman Spoofers got off to a cracking start in a high-scoring first round before Jim's Junkies began to gnaw away at their lead. The two teams were level by the end of Round 3, only for the Junkies to squeak through on the last lap by a two-point margin. The Crown Southerners and Another Team brought up the rear.

With a suspension of hostilities for January, it's to be hoped that a few more people will volunteer for pencil-sucking and head-scratching duties in the coming months, and maybe break that pesky Junkie/Spoofers stranglehold. So come along for the next confrontation on Tuesday, 2nd February. You never know what Rodney might pull out of his bulging sack!

Six of Rodney's Best

1. Which Asian country's name means 'sacred island'?
2. Which canal links the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea?
3. Shogi, Renju, Irensei and Sugoroku are examples of what?
4. What Thai national holiday is celebrated on August 12?
5. Who played both Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone on television?
6. What is the name of Barbie's mobile home?



The inscrutable Junkies pulled off another coup.



Q.12 What country was discovered in January 1500 by Spanish navigator Vicente Yanez Pinzon?



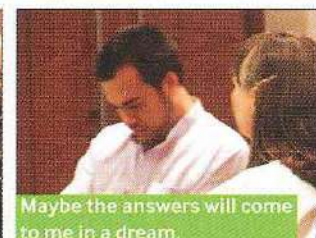
Is it the answer Sol Cowboy?



Ho, ho, bloody ho.



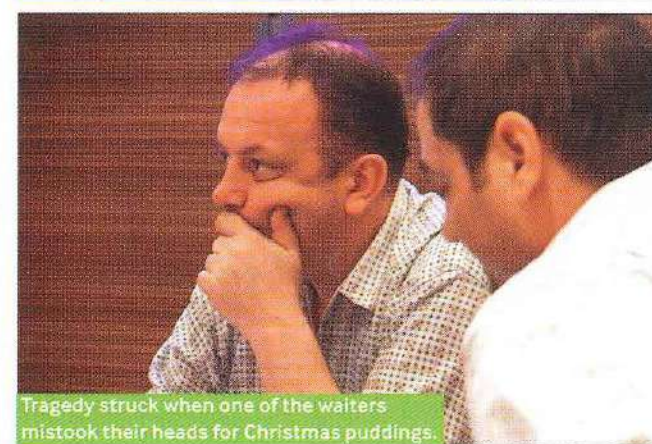
The look that either says, "I think I know this one" or "What have I let myself in for?"



To hell with the quiz, I've just stabbed myself in the face!



Maybe the answers will come to me in a dream.



One contestant tried to relieve the tension by opening the doors on an imaginary Advent calendar.

Tragedy struck when one of the waiters mistook their heads for Christmas puddings.

BC BALUT



Balut for all ages!



Balut at its best!

Balut Cups Night!!!!

February 27th sees the third annual BCB Balut Cups Night when we play for not one, not two, not three but four different Cups to cater for four distinct classes of players.

BCB BALUT CUP

Open to all British Club Balut section members and spouses.

BCB BALUT JUNIOR CUP

Open to children (under 21) of British Club Balut section members and to section members' children still in full-time education.

BCB BALUT ALLCOMERS CUP

Open to all non-British Club members.

BCB LOWEST SCORE CUP

Given to the worst player of the night!!

The event starts in the Suriwongse Room at 6.15pm with a heavy buffet and free-flowing beer and wines sponsored by Outrigger Hotels & Resorts. Play commences at 7pm with five games spread over two hours: the running scores will be available online (and on display) through Yes Technologies' Balut Internet Scoring system.

Usual tournament conditions will apply including table rotation, spot prizes, nicotine breaks and, of course, the awards ceremony — cups, medals and those all-so-welcome bottles of wine! Fee — 1,000 baht for adults, 500 baht for children.

Hua Hin Invitational

On 28 February, three teams from the British Club Bangkok have been invited to Hua Hin to play in the first Hua Hin Balut

Invitational Competition. The teams will be selected during February and a full report put in April's Outpost.

Balut Shield Update

As of the end of December (such are the problems of magazine deadlines), only two British Club players had qualified for the Balut Shield, having played in six tournaments, although 24 other players are partway there. Currently, the 2008/09 Champion T.C. (Phil Alexander) leads the 2007/08 Champion Swampy (Steve Eaton) by 99.77 to 99.20 points, but with 17 more tournaments left to play, it is still anyone's championship... really!

The 30th STC Interport

As we mentioned in January's Outpost, the British Club Bangkok is to host the prestigious 30th STC Interport Balut tournament from 19 to 21 November. To this end, the 30-Organising Committee has been set up:

Phil Alexander
Paul Cheesman

Chairman of the 30-OC.
Organising Secretary responsible for communications, website, budgeting & BCB matters.

Bob van Es

Member responsible for sponsorship, badges and trophies.
Member responsible for scoring and all things technical.

David Quine

Carlos Romero

Member responsible for external contractors — band, shirts, marquee, brochure etc.
Master of Ceremonies.

Roger Willbourn

All offers of sponsorship or supply of materials are welcome!

There was a mistake in January's Outpost in that the participating teams at the 29th STC Interport were omitted. Here are the teams that participated:

British Club Bangkok participating teams at the 29th STC Interport

BCB Team One	BCB Team Two	BCB Team Three	BCB Team Four
Phil Alexander	Bob Van Es	Ronald MacDonald	Bob Merrigan
Roger Willbourn	Aram Van Es	Momo	Cartoon Merrigan
Carlos Romero	Lyla Van Es	Stephen Mallon	Muntana Merrigan
Tik Romero	Richard Yong	Sofia Wang	Tom Merrigan

SUDOKU

Something doesn't add up (ha! number humour right off the start). We threw down the gauntlet last month with our most challenging Sudokus yet, and what did you do? Drop to your knees, grovel, beg and plead for mercy from us to never be so cruel to you again? No, you picked said gauntlet up... and then clubbed us over the head with it while taunting us with your results (what is it with the taunting?). The scofflaws went by unusual names like Henderson (H243), Fawkes (F155), Harries (H361), Ramsay (R84) and monthly champion yet again (oh, but just barely), Duanghai (D44).

Well, this month, we've decided to shake things up... or rock your world... or something like that. We've come up with Sudokus that use hieroglyphics instead of numbers! No, wait, too esoteric. Two new Sudokus that use, let's say, the first four even and five odd positive integers (admit it, you just counted, didn't you?). Ooh, diabolical, aren't we? So, we throw down — a — not a gauntlet, that just hurt too much last time — a long, soft feather, yes! Let us see who among you is brave enough to pick that up. Yes, let us see.

Oh, it was you. Okay, certainly your choice. If you think you've got what it takes, just make your way over to page 1, and send your solution times to the Club's Sudoku ambassadors (aka Apple or Baz) by email or fax... or there's always that crumpled-paper-ball-hurl-at-Baz option. We like that one.

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

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

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Tel: 02-254-0955-8

E-mail: ctd@inlinguabangkok.com

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS:

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

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

MONDAY NIGHT CLUB

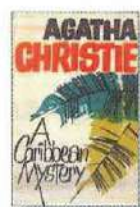
We continue our series on famous detectives each Monday throughout February.

FEBRUARY

Each evening starts at 7pm in the Wordsworth Lounge with the full F&B Menu available.

1st A Caribbean Mystery

Whilst recovering from illness, Miss Marple is told a tale of a murderer or two, but was it a man who killed his wife or a woman who killed the husband? She really did wish she could remember! Set in the sunny Caribbean, Jane Marple (Joan Hickson) enlists the help of Jason Rafiel (Donald Pleasence) to prevent another murder.



The holiday of death?



The jewel in the crown?

8th The Sign of Four

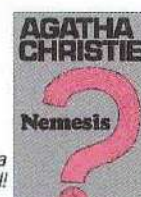
More correctly entitled 'The Sign of the Four', this feature-length portrayal of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's second Sherlock Holmes novel stars Jeremy Brett as the infamous detective and John Thaw as Jonathan Small, a member of the Sign of the Four, in a tale of deception, murder, love and intrigue.



So, you can be in two places at once!

15th Evil Under The Sun

In a secluded holiday hotel island, a famous actress is murdered, leaving Hercule Poirot (David Suchet) with fourteen suspects, all of whom had motive and none of whom had opportunity. Thankfully, Captain Hastings (Hugh Fraser) appears in this TV adaption (he's not featuring in the book) to completely mess things up and allow the real murderer to be caught.



Retribution in a pink shawl!

22nd Nemesis

A short while after 'A Caribbean Mystery', Jason Rafiel dies, leaving Jane Marple an unusual bequest in his will... a Mystery Coach Tour and a message, "Let judgment run down as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream." So, what is this mystery? Who is this mysterious Professor? Just who are the Angels? And just who is Nemesis? Joan Hickson stars as Jane Marple.



New Happier Hours

Monday's Imported Beer
from 6 pm—8 pm all outlets!

Draught imported beers
discount THB 40/ pint
THB 20/ 1/2 pint

Bottled imported beers
discount THB 20/ bottle

Wednesday's Local Beers & House Pouring Spirits
From 6pm—8 pm all outlets!

Draught local beers
discount THB 40/pint
THB 20/ 1/2 pint

House bottled local beers
discount THB 20/bottle

Pouring spirits discount THB 20
(Gin, whisky and vodka)



KHUN LAAK'S ON THE MENU

Another month's delectable feast, ready for the making. If you're not in the mood to do the cooking, pop into the Club and just order it up. We'll do the work for you!



Grilled Snowfish with Black Olive Sauce and Lemon Mash
Serves 4.

Sea salt • zest of 2 lemons, plus a little juice • a sprig of fresh rosemary, leaves picked • 4 x 200g (7oz) snowfish fillets, butterflied • olive oil • 2 bunches of rocket, washed and drained; for the black olive sauce: 2 large handfuls of good black olives, stoned and very roughly chopped • ½ a fresh red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped • a small handful of fresh herbs (basil, marjoram and parsley), finely chopped • 1 celery heart, yellow leaves chopped • 1 clove of garlic, peeled and finely chopped • juice of 1 lemon • freshly ground black pepper • a couple of glugs of extra virgin olive oil • balsamic vinegar; for the lemon mash: 1 kg (2lb 3oz) floury potatoes • sea salt and freshly ground black pepper • extra virgin olive oil • milk • juice of 1 lemon

In a pestle and mortar or Flavour Shaker, smash up 2 tablespoons of salt with the lemon zest and rosemary and rub this all over the fish fillets. Put the fillets in a dish in the fridge and let them sit there for an hour. Now make your black olive sauce by mixing all the ingredients except the vinegar together. You want the sauce to have the consistency of a coarse salsa. Then carefully balance the flavours with the vinegar to taste.

Pat the fish dry with some kitchen paper and then pat it with a little olive oil. Peel and halve your potatoes. Put them into a pot of salted, boiling water and cook until tender. Then drain and mash up with 6 tablespoons of olive oil and a good swig of milk. Season to taste with salt, pepper and lemon juice. If you want to get your mash really smooth and creamy, you can use a spatula to push the potato through a sieve once or twice. If it needs thinning with a little extra milk, feel free.

Place the butterflied fillets on a hot griddle pan and cook for about 3 minutes on each side, depending on the thickness. Serve the fish and the juices with a good dollop of the mashed potato, the black olive sauce and a little rocket dressed with the extra virgin olive oil, lemon juice and salt and pepper.

Navarin of Lamb 'Printanière'
Serves 6.

1 x boned shoulder of spring lamb weighing about 1.5kg (3lb) • 50g (2oz) butter • 2 tbsp sunflower oil • 2 medium onions, thinly sliced • 4 garlic cloves • 1 large carrot, peeled and sliced • 1 tsp sugar • 2 tbsp flour • 1 tbsp tomato puree • 2 thyme sprigs • 2 bay leaves • 600ml (1 pint) chicken stock • 8 button onions or small shallots, peeled • 8 spring carrots, tops trimmed and then scraped • 2 small turnips, cut into quarters • 8 small new potatoes, scraped • 50g (2oz) fresh peas • 50g (2oz) French green beans, topped, tailed and halved • 8-10 mint leaves • salt and freshly ground black pepper • mashed potatoes, to serve

The fat on a shoulder or spring lamb is not excessive and has a good flavour, but you do need to trim most of it off – say about 70%. Then cut the meat into 50g (2oz) pieces.

Take a flameproof casserole, add a tablespoon of the butter and the oil, and when smoking, add the meat in 2 batches and turn it over briskly until well browned. Lift onto a plate and pour off the excess oil. Add the rest of the butter and the onions, 3 of the garlic cloves, thinly sliced, the carrot and sugar and fry until the onions are golden brown.

Add the flour and tomato purée and fry for another couple of minutes, then return the lamb to the casserole and add the thyme, bay leaves, stock and 1½ teaspoons of salt. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer very gently for 40 minutes.

Meanwhile, cook the button onions, carrots, turnips and new potatoes separately in boiling, well-salted water until tender. Drain, cover and keep warm.



Remove the pieces of lamb from the casserole and strain the sauce through a sieve into a bowl, pressing the vegetables against the side of the sieve to extract as much flavour as possible. Discard the vegetables and return the lamb and the cooking liquid to the casserole. Add the peas and beans and simmer for 5 minutes, then gently stir in the other cooked vegetables and simmer for 2-3 minutes until they warmed through.

Finely chop together the mint leaves with the remaining clove of garlic and stir into the stew. Serve from the casserole with the mashed potatoes.



Scallop & Strawberry Salad

8 U-8 fresh, dry-pack scallops • 3oz quartered fresh strawberries • 3 oz. herb infused goat cheese • 2 medallions of herbed goat cheese • 10 orange segments • 5 oz. wild greens • 1 heirloom tomato, sliced thin • 4 oz. Balsamic vinaigrette (vinaigrette: 1 cup olive oil ½ cup strawberry puree • ½ cup balsamic vinegar • 1 tbsp fresh tarragon • 2oz honey • salt and pepper to taste)

Rub scallops with a small amount of olive oil and season lightly with salt and pepper. Sear scallops (both sides) in a very hot sauté pan until nicely caramelized. Pull and set aside. Toss the greens with the goat cheese, strawberries and orange segments. Add the vinaigrette. Season with salt and pepper. Toss lightly. In a circular pattern, fan out the thin slices of tomatoes on the base of the plate. Sprinkle a little olive oil, salt and pepper. Place a small handful of the greens in the centre of the tomatoes. Place four scallops around the salad and place one medallion of herbed goat cheese in the centre of the salad.



Blueberry Vanilla Protein Shake
Serves 1.

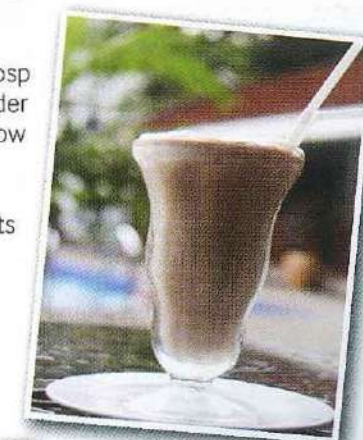
1 tbsp blueberries • 1 tbsp yoghurt • 1 tbsp vanilla protein powder • 1½ tbsp honey • 6oz water

Blend all ingredients together until slushy.

Banana Chocolate Protein Shake
Serves 1.

1 pc banana • 1 tbsp chocolate protein powder • 1½ tbsp honey • 6oz low fat fresh milk

Blend all ingredients together until slushy.



Pineapple Vanilla Protein Shake
Serves 1.

4 pcs pineapple • 1 tbsp Yoghurt • 1 tbsp vanilla protein powder • 1½ tbsp honey • 6oz water

Blend all ingredients together until slushy.



Bangkok
COMMUNITY
Theatre

Bangkok Community Theatre merrily presents

"Pinocchio"

in the Suriwongse Room at The British Club

An interactive children's play for the young, and young at heart!

Bring your little ones to BCT's wonderfully inventive version of "Pinocchio" to be performed in The British Club's 'Suriwong Room' twice daily at 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm on March 13 & 14 and 20 & 21, 2010.

Although designed for children 4 to 9 years old, parents will also enjoy this unique type of live theatre-in-the-round, which stimulates the imagination and involves the audience in the action throughout! Children are encouraged to come dressed in costume to add to the fun.

Come early to make a simple craft with volunteers from Bangkok Patana School and the BNH Hospital that the children can use to participate in the show (craft is included in the ticket price.) And stay late to enjoy the delicious picnic barbeque, sweets and snacks provided by the British Club on the lawn (refreshments are not included in the ticket price.) Note: there is no parking at the club for this event.

With magic and mime, mischief and mayhem, "Pinocchio" promises to be a memorable family experience. But don't delay! Seating is limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are one price at B200 each and will be available from Feb 22nd to British Club Members at reception at the main clubhouse and to the general public at the Lobby reception desk of the BNH Hospital on 9/1 Convent Road. Tickets may be purchased at the hospital from 8am to 7pm, Monday to Friday and from 8am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, please visit the BCT website at www.bct-th.org or email Pinocchio@sala.net Thank you to our sponsors for their support!



Bangkok Patana School
The British International School in Thailand
Established 1957



www.BNHhospital.com



JVK INTERNATIONAL MOVERS



COME BACK AGAIN!!!
DISNEY ON ICE, DISNEYLAND ADVENTURE

SATURDAY, 27TH MARCH 2010
STARTS AT 11.00 AM.

TRANSPORTATION LEAVES AT 9.30 AM.
IMPACT ARENA MUANG THONG THANI
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FOR MORE ENQUIRY, PLEASE CONTACT CLUB RECEPTION
OR VISIT WWW.BRITISHCLUBBANGKOK.ORG

SUSIE'S Kids Korner



Gnome-Sweet-Gnome Valentine

These cuties are a cinch to mass-produce, and each gnome sweetens the deal with a chocolate kiss under its colourful hat.

Craft Materials

- 3-inch-diameter can
- 4-inch square of felt
- Scissors
- Nontoxic glue, such as UHU
- Paper clip
- Chocolate kiss
- 2 googly eyes (7mm), adhesive-backed or not
- Pen or marker
- 3/4-inch office dot sticker

Instructions

1. Create a 3-inch circle of felt by pressing the bottom of the can into the felt and cutting along the impression it leaves. Cut the circle into quarters.



2. To form the hat, run a thin line of glue along a straight edge of one felt quarter and press it to the other straight edge. Use a paper clip to hold the edges in place. When the glue is dry, remove the clip. Save the other quarters to make hats for more gnomes.

3. Glue the hat in place on the kiss, then stick or glue on the eyes (tip: you won't need much glue; we used a toothpick to apply the eye glue). Allow the glue to dry.

4. Use a pen or marker to write your Valentine wish on a dot sticker and press it to the bottom of the kiss.



Cupid's Arrow

Armed with a candy heart and cinnamon gum, this arrow is guaranteed to hit its mark every time.

Craft Materials

- Six-inch wooden skewer
- Pack of gum
- Gumdrops heart
- Glue
- Tissue paper



Instructions

1. Simply stick a six-inch wooden skewer through a pack of gum and stab it with a gumdrop heart.
2. Finish it by gluing tissue paper strips to the end to create a feathery effect.

VALENTINE'S DAY JOKES FOR KIDS

Knock knock!
Who's there?
Howard.

Howard who?
Howard you like a big kiss?

What did the boy squirrel say to the girl squirrel on Valentine's Day?
I'm nuts about you!

What did the girl squirrel say to the boy squirrel on Valentine's Day?
You're nuts so bad yourself!

What did the French chef give his wife for Valentine's Day?
A hug and a quiche!

What did one light bulb say to the other?
"I love you a whole watt!"

FUND RAISING FOR THE QUEEN SIRIKIT CENTER FOR BREAST CANCER

QUEEN'S CUP



LA MARTINA ~ PINK POLO

LADIES TOURNAMENT

LA MARTINA



Saturday 20 February 2010

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Thai Polo & Equestrian Club Pattaya

RSVP: lifestylebrands@lbg.co.th 02 650 3055

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