

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

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February 1952 to February 2012

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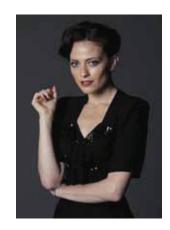
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FRONT COVER

Respect and admiration of the monarch are sentiments well-understood in Thailand. For British people, and many others around the world, this month reminds us of the extraordinary reign of Queen Elizabeth II, and the remarkable changes she has witnessed during her 60 years as Queen. We wish her continued good health and prosperity.



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OUTPOST

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LETTER FROM THE ACTING GM



Dear Members,

As I predicted in last month's Outpost, December 2011 proved to be a record-breaking month. We catered 239 people for Christmas lunch, filling the Churchill Bar, Verandah, Suriwongse Room and the back lawn, and a very good time was enjoyed by all. Members were back again in large numbers on New Year's Eve, with 140 attending our countdown event. Perhaps it was too good as fewer Members than usual returned the next morning for the Polar Swim!

After all the hectic activity of December and January, February will be a quieter month and we plan to start work on some major maintenance work. A contract for the repainting of the Clubhouse has been awarded and work should be underway by the time you read this article. Our more ambitious plans for the redevelopment of the Suriwongse Sala have been put on hold for now, so we will proceed with repairs to the roof and are tendering for this work. We are also seeking a specialist consultant to advise on an approach for repairs to the swimming pool.

I would like to thank Members again for their generous contributions to the Flood Appeal Fund. We raised a total of 71,555 baht which was paid out equally between 13 of our staff whose homes had been affected.

Finally, I was delighted to learn that the GC had identified a new General Manager. I met Joost last month and am very much looking forward to working with him. It has been a rewarding experience for me to stand in as acting general manger for the last few months, and I would like to thank all the Members for their patience and support during that time. But it has also been very tiring and I am looking forward to having my weekends back and taking a well-earned holiday!

Premrudee Thanyaluck **Acting General Manager**

It's time to

NO&

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	Fitness Centre	6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)		
Churchill Bar	10am - 11pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 9pm (Sat-Sun)		
Poolside Bar	6:15am - 11pm Last food orders 9:30pm	Thai Massage	9am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)		



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6th - 10th February 2012

<u>Starters – 55 Baht</u> Mozzarella, Mango, Tomato and Rocket Salad

Chef's Soup of the Day

<u>Main Courses – 140 Baht</u> Grilled Chicken Breast Served with Roast Vegetable Couscous

Salmon Fishcakes Served with Chips, Garden Peas and Tartare Sauce

Mixed Sausages Served with Mashed Potato and Fried Onion

Gaeng Jued Phak Gard Khao (Chinese Lettuce Soup with Minced Pork, Tofu, and Vermicelli) Pla Sam Ros (Deep-Fried Dory Fish Topped with Sweet and Sour Spiced chili Sauce) Phad Phak Ruam (Stir-Fried Mixed Vegetables with Oyster Sauce)

Dessert of the Day- 50 Baht Choose from our à la Carte Dessert 10% off

20th - 24th February 2012

<u>Starters – 55 Baht</u> Grilled Chicken, Mango, Avocado, Beetroot Salad Balsamic and Honey Dressing

Chef's Soup of the Day

<u>Main Courses – 140 Baht</u> Chicken Korma Served with Boiled Egg and Yellow Rice

Fish and Chips Your Choice of breadcrumbed or Battered with Garden Peas and Tartare Sauce

Pork Schnitzel Served with Apple Salad

Tom Yam Goong (Spicy Lemon Grass Soup with Prawns and Mushroom) Gai Phad Khing (Stir-Fried Chicken with Ginger, Onion and Fungus Mushroom) Tod Mun Pla (Deep-Fried Fishcakes)

Dessert of the Day- 55 Baht Choose from our à la Carte Dessert 10% off

13th - 17th February 2012

<u>Starters – 55 Baht</u> Waldorf Ham Salad

Chef's Soup of the Day

<u>Main Courses – 140 Baht</u> Grilled Pork Loin Steak with Apple and Fennel Slow

> Pan-Fried Dory Fish with Mornay Sauce Served with Broccoli and Mashed Potato

Mini Steak Served with Mixed Vegetable and Roast Potatoes

Tom Kha Gai (A Refreshing Coconut Milk Soup with Chicken and Herbs) Phad Kaprao Moo Sab (Stir-Fried Minced Pork with Hot Basil and Chilli) Phad Tua Ngok Tao Hoo (Stir-Fried Bean Sprouts with Bean Curd and Oyster Sauce)

> Dessert of the Day- 55 Baht Choose from our à la Carte Dessert 10% off

27th February - 2nd March

2012

Starters – 55 Baht Warm Bread Salad of Crispy Bacon, Parmesan and Poached Egg

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses – 140 Baht Turkey and Leek Pie Served with Mixed Vegetables and Home-Fried Potatoes

> Lamb, Beef and Eggplant Moussaka Served with Mixed Salad and Garlic Bread

Fillet of Pork Mushroom Sauce Served with Green Beans, Carrots and Garlic Roast Potatoes

Gaeng Kiew Wan Look Chin Pla (Fish Balls in Green Curry Sauce) Kai Jiew Moo Sub (Thai Style Minced Pork Omelette) Phad Kana Nam Man Hoy (Stir-Fried Kale with Oyster Sauce)

> Dessert of the Day- 55 Baht Choose from our à la Carte Dessert 10% off

THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

F&B MORSELS



After an extremely busy last few months over the festive season, it is nice to be working at a slower pace at least for this month.

During February, we still plan to have some special dining occasions for you to enjoy.

The first is the Valentine's Dinner on the 14 February, so you and that special person in your life can enjoy a Valentine's special menu here at the Club.

On Sunday 19 February, we will be celebrating Pancake Day which is in fact on 21 February. As always this will be a fun day for all, so don't miss it!

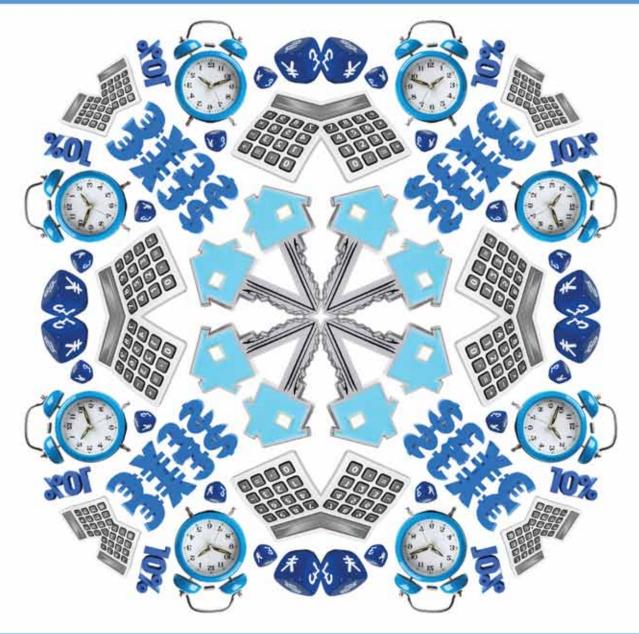
And finally, my thanks to those of you who have given positive comments on the revised menu and folders.

Happy eating!

Khun Laak Executive Chef

		ININ	
1st - 15th February 2012		16th- 29th February 2012	
Starters		Starters	
Chef's Soup of the Day	80 Baht	Chef's Soup of the Day	80 Bah
Pan-Cooked Asparagus and Mixed Seafood	200 Baht	Prawn Cocktail	160 Bah
Main Courses		Main Courses	
Crispy Glazed Duck Breast with Green Pepper Sauce		Main Courses Spaghetti with Spicy Lamb Sauce and Fresh Rosemary	265 Bah
		Spaghetti with Spicy Lamb Sauce and Fresh Rosemary	265 Bah
Crispy Glazed Duck Breast with Green Pepper Sauce		Spaghetti with Spicy Lamb Sauce and Fresh Rosemary Duo of Red Snapper and Sea Bass	265 Bah 335 Bah
Crispy Glazed Duck Breast with Green Pepper Sauce Served with Red Cabbage Jam and Croquette Potato	es 300 Baht	Spaghetti with Spicy Lamb Sauce and Fresh Rosemary	
Crispy Glazed Duck Breast with Green Pepper Sauce Served with Red Cabbage Jam and Croquette Potato Lamb Shank Braised with Red Wine and Herbs	es 300 Baht 5 400 Baht	Spaghetti with Spicy Lamb Sauce and Fresh Rosemary Duo of Red Snapper and Sea Bass	

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YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

The next General Committee of the Club will be chosen at the 2012 Annual General Meeting on Thursday 8 March 2012, and must consist of between eight and ten persons who meet the following requirements of our Constitution & Rules, and the Thai Civil & Commercial Code:

- (a) Be an Ordinary Member of the Club and have been so for at least six months
- (b) Have a legal work permit and/or visa to reside in Thailand, or be a permanent resident here.

Upon election you will be required to obtain an authority letter from your Embassy and be registered with the Bangrak District Office.

The legalities are one thing, however it is **having enough time** that is the most essential aspect for any applicant. Over the past decade or so, the author has noticed that many Members with all the goodwill in the world stand for the General Committee, get elected, and then simply do not have the time to do the job! You may need to commit three or four hours a week to reading reports, sitting on Work Groups or sub-committees, interviewing membership applicants as well as committing to the monthly three hour (or so) main meeting (currently held third Tuesday of the month) ... and this is the minimum.

Applications for the General Committee close at the AGM, so please give some thought to standing and please ensure you have **enough spare time** if you do stand.

Paul Cheesman Honorary Secretary 2000-2003, 2006-2008, 2010-2012



NEW LOCKER SYSTEM

In order to ensure that all lockers are required by the leaser, and to provide funding for additional lockers, the following changes have been made to the Locker Rules:

- 1. From 1st February 2012, lockers will be leased at a cost of 1,200 baht for a 12 month period. There will be no refunds for lockers surrendered part-way through the year, and lockers are not transferable.
- 2. This new pricing scheme will be charged to Members' accounts in February.
- 3. At the end of each 12 month period, each locker user will be given first refusal for leasing the locker for the next 12 month period.

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TRAVELS IN THE CEVENNES (without a donkey) - pt 1 By Ray & Jenny Harries



In 1878 Robert Louis Stevenson travelled for two weeks through central France accompanied by a donkey and he later wrote about his experiences in a book called "Travels with a donkey in the Cevennes". The route he took was subsequently followed by other adventurers and eventually a long distance footpath, one of the French Grand Randonnée system, was created which follows as closely as possible the way trod by Stevenson and his faithful donkey Modestine.

Ray and I have done various long distance walks in France, New Zealand, the UK and last year through Slovenia and into Austria. This year we decided to tackle the 225 kilometre Chemin Stevenson through some very unspoilt scenery and remote countryside in the high Massif Central. We added on two days at either end in order to connect with train stations so the walk became nearly 300 km which we did over 19 days including two rest days. However we neither took a donkey nor even used the modern equivalent of baggage transportation.





The Chemin Stevenson does not only pass through the Cevennes; it actually starts in the volcanic high massif area at Le Puy en Velay. It traverses high farmland with dairy farms producing excellent cheeses; the remote forest area of Gévaudan; the mountainous watershed for the major rivers of France and finally the rough limestone crags of the Cevennes with their Mediterranean vegetation. The walk finishes in St Jean du Gard but we continued to Alès to make the train connection back to Montpellier.

We booked all our accommodation in advance either in bed and breakfast (chambres d'hôtes in France) small auberges or gîtes d'étape. The gîtes are an excellent French institution and exist on all the long distance footpaths. They provide accommodation, usually in dormitories, shared bathrooms, breakfast and a set meal in the evenings. The evening meal can vary according to the ability of the cook, but usually consists of four courses often with locally produced food, a soup or salad, a main course, cheese platter and dessert, often with a glass of wine provided as well. Breakfast is nearly always the standard bread and jam and tea or coffee.

The first seven days were spent crossing high farmland with wide open spaces, huge fields and lots of dairy cattle. Unfortunately the weather turned very cold and wet for two days so we did not stop for long anywhere. When we arrived in towns we found cafes and drank huge bowls of hot chocolate. The weather improved and we had a morning's walk into Langogne where we had the first of our rest days, spending two nights there. Langogne is a very small ancient town at a crossroads between the high Velay country and the remote Gévaudan forests. We were told that there is very little to see or do there, but we found it to be quite charming with ancient houses built against the inside of the walls which once encircled the centre of the town. Langogne used to be the centre of the woollen spinning industry and the spinning museum still with working machinery was very interesting.





For the next five days we averaged over 20 kilometres a day and the countryside changed to steeper hills and valleys all covered in ancient mixed forests. The weather improved but the mornings were very chilly and the fields were often frost covered when we set off. On our way to Cheylard l'Évêque from Langogne we entered the ancient and remote Gévaudun forest, which is still rich in legends about the beast which apparently devoured dozens of people 250 years ago. We didn't see the beast but did encounter hunters out shooting wild boar and were glad we were wearing distinctive brightly coloured shirts. We also came across many people dressed in camouflage outfits with wicker baskets on their arms collecting all kinds of funghi. Stevenson became hopelessly lost in these dense forests but for us the waymarked track led clearly to Cheylard l'Évêque which is a small remote village at the bottom of a steep valley. Ray immediately found the little village bar in the front room of one of the old houses and was amazed to buy a glass of wine for half a Euro.

12 •• OUTPOST •• February 2012

Spotlight



The next morning we set off as early as we could with frost still on the ground and encountered very few people on the forest tracks. This is the section that prompted one of Stevenson's most famous quotes "I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake."

We then entered the high country of central France crossing the watershed where some rivers including the Loire and Allier flow to the north and others, the Dordogne, Lot and the Tarn just a few kilometres away flow south and then west. It was great to walk past the source of rivers which we know well in their much larger versions downstream. We also crossed valleys spanned by railway viaducts particularly at Mirandol where the ancient village is overshadowed by the huge arches and there is a monument to the workers who died in an accident while building the railway line.

On this day's walk to Les Alpiers above Bleymard we met a group of French people walking for a week together, all busy collecting Cep funghi in the forest, which were cooked and served with the casserole of beef at dinner that night.





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Spotlight



The next day was another very long walk now in the Cevennes over the highest ridge of the whole walk, the pic de Finiels on Mt Lozère. Mt Lozère is well known as a popular stage on the Tour de France and in the winter is also a renowned ski area. Consequently the landscape is somewhat marred by ski lifts which always look very ugly in the summer. It was a fairly straightforward and steady climb from the ski resort to the 1699 metre summit and the



views were fantastic. There were also some useful orientation tables and we could pick out where we had come from and also look towards the range of blue hills in front of us where we could see that we still had quite a long way to go.







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Spotlight

FUNNY NUNS IN THE SURIWONGSE ROOM!

Bangkok Community Theatre (BCT) will be back on stage in the Club's Suriwongse Room this month with more fabulous theatre. Their new production, Dan Goggins' hilarious musical comedy **Nunsense**, is directed by Michael Allman and will be performed for just five performances.

Nunsense is a delightful romp of a musical about five nuns who are putting on a fund-raising concert. It seems that the convent cook, Sister Julia-Child of God, accidentally poisoned 52 fellow sisters with a bad batch of Vichyssoise, and these five are trying to raise money to bury the remaining sisters who are temporarily stowed in the freezer!

Nunsense is a fast-paced musical comedy that won 4 outer Critics Circle Awards including Best Musical during its 10-year run in New York.

In this production, the Mother Superior is played by BC Member and BCT regular Louise Truslow. She is adeptly aided by Sister Mary Hubert (Nichola Frances), last seen stealing scenes as Mrs. Pearce in BCT's **Pygmalion**. BCT regular and BC Member Bonnie Zellerbach plays the wisecracking Sister Robert Anne.

Nunsense will be staged with three evening performances at 8pm on Thurs/Fri/Sat 23/24/25 February, plus two matinee performances at 3pm on Sat/Sun 25/26 February.

Tickets at Bt 800 each will be available at Club Reception from January 20th in person or by email, or through BCT by phone or email (087-936-3798 and bctnunsense(q gmail.com)



Tickets are for the Nunsense performance alone; however you are encouraged to make a night of it and pre-book the sumptuous pre-dinner buffet (Bt 400 per person) that Khun Laak and her team will also offer downstairs before the evening performances and after the Saturday Matinee. There is also a Sunday brunch available before the Sunday matinee. For brunch or dinner reservations, please e-mail info@britishclubbangkok.org or call 0 2234 0247.

This madcap musical full of hysterical nun puns will be enjoyed by people of all ages and faiths; however BCT thinks that adults and students age 10+ will find it most enjoyable. The weekend matinees with be especially convenient for the whole family to attend so don't delay booking! BCT would like to thank Ensogo.com, JVK International Movers, BNH Hospital and Tilleke & Gibbins for their generous sponsorship support. Without them, the production would not have been possible.





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CHAMPAGNE TAITTINGER



PAST PARTICIPLE Auspicium Melioris Ævi By Paul Cheesman



We look back at events of 1972 ...

A sudden increase of interest rates from 7% to 11% by the Chartered Bank triggered a financial crisis in the Club. Years of static membership fees, and a serious drop in functions at the Club over the previous few years had led to our borrowing to pay off debts. As at 24th February, we had increased our overdraft to 300,000 Baht but still had 375,000 Baht outstanding from the 1966 swimming pool loan. After much internal debate on how to address this issue, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held on 16th June to raise entrance fees and subscriptions which came into effect on 20th June and 1st August respectively.

The crisis meant that much-awaited projects like the laying of hard tennis courts and air-conditioning the Cinema (Suriwongse) Room were postponed, the new restaurant was now permitted to be closed for functions to boost income and the Annual Christmas Party was cancelled.



In an attempt to assail the financial difficulties, the Committee looked at leasing part of the Poolside area to the Narai Hotel, for car parking. The Narai proposed 250,000 Baht

tea money on a 30-year lease with monthly rental. This was negotiated down to a three-year lease before legal advice, as given before in 1964 that as a foreign entity we cannot lease out parts of our land, led to the idea being abandoned.



Petty crime and vandalism had sadly become part of the Club's day-to-day life but more careful observation and remedial action led the Chairman to report that there had been a

drop in the number of cases of minor theft and damage in the Club caused by children of Members, but an alarming increase in the amount of 'advice' being given by children about the Club as recorded in the Suggestion Book the Chairman was led to question the "modern lack of communication between the parent and offspring".



A supposed highlight of the year should have been the Munich Olympics and so to boost trade over this period, it was agreed to hire a set for the duration. It cost 700 Baht just to hire for the six weeks!

The year also saw the visit of two Royal Naval ships from the 3rd Frigate Squadron - HMS Diomede (F16) {Leander-class} and HMS Lowestoft (F103) {Rothesay-class}. Officers and crew were entertained at the Club. Interestingly a few years later both ships fought in the third Cod War where they were both rammed by various Icelandic ships as was the main tactic used by the fishermen. The Diomede ended her life in the Pakistan Navy as PNS Shamsheer whilst the Lowestoft was used for torpedo practice by the Royal Navy and was sunk.

I am pleased to say that the amount of pilfering and damage by the siblings of Members has shown a trend for the better this year. However, I am not so pleased to say that another habit has reared its ugly head. This is the use of the Suggestions Book by children or youths of either sex between the ages of ten and sixteen. I am beginning to wonder if the mordern lack of communication between the parent and offspring is so great that the youngster of today finds it impossible to discuss such a simple matter as an idea he or she has about the Club. Or is it merely bad manners? I leave the thought with you.

Let me reiterate. Gentlemen, the Suggestion Book is solely for your use and for nobody else's.

"Should be obscene and not heard"

The author is Honorary Secretary of the Club



Please join us for afternoon tea with Mr Iain Colledge, Head of School at St. Andrews International School, Sukhumvit 107 Campus, as he outlines the benefits of the IB Diploma in an English Context and its advantages over traditional approaches to knowledge acquisition and application.

2:00 pm •15th February 2012

The British Club, 189 Suriwongse Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Free event but registration required Email: annie.hansen@standrews-schools.com







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BC CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2012





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SPORT & LEISURE



Dear Members,

A busy January has given way to a shorter yet just as busy February.

This month I'm updating you on Tennis and Swimming, with a quick note on Cricket as well.

Many thanks and a happy Valentine's Day.

Paul

CRICKET

In January we launched TNT, Thursday Night Trio, a weekly mini cricket league with 3 teams playing 3 games each Thursday night. It has got off to a fantastic start and a lot of good competitive fun cricket is being played.

If you are interested in joining a team, entering a team or just coming along and drinking a tower of beer and cheering/jeering, then please contact me or come down on Thursday evenings at 7pm.

POLAR SWIM

As mentioned elsewhere, the New Year's Eve function was well-attended and went on into the early hours, more than had been expected. 2012 was welcomed in style!

However, there must have been some sore heads the next morning, and the prospect of taking a dip in icy water must have been a little too much, as there were rather few willing to brace themselves for the shock!

Those that did venture in were comfortable -Happy New Year!









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SWIMMING By Paul Ringer

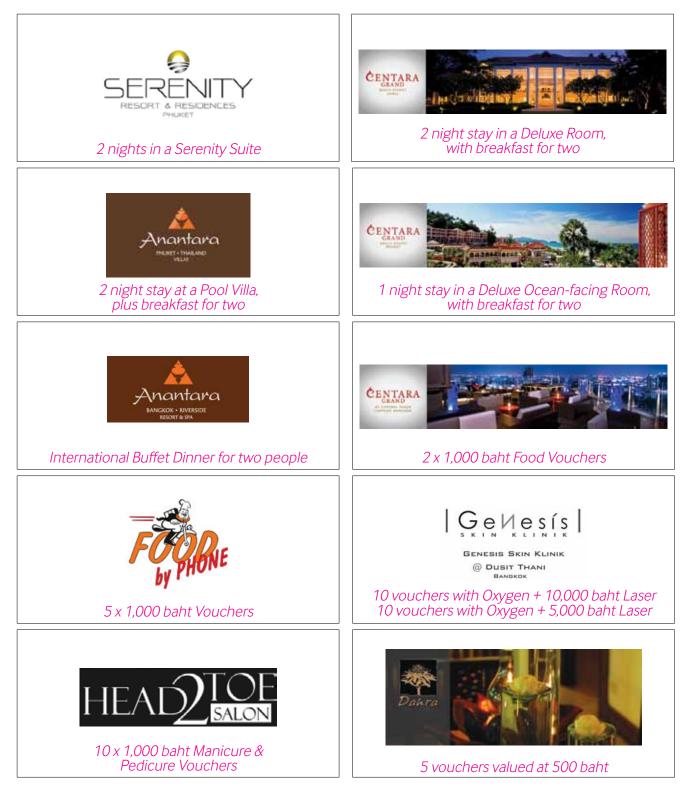


New swimming courses are finally underway this month. Many thanks to all who have continued with lessons and to all those who have joined in; it won't be long before your child's bedroom wall is proudly adorned with one or more of the following certificates:





The British Club Tennis Championships 2012 are finally underway and all the first round games should be finished by 5th February, with the second round games being completed by 26th February. Lots of great tennis is being played for a plethora of excellent prizes:



Just to make sure everyone is being sufficiently sporting, here is a quick round up of the correct competition etiquette.

Warm-ups	- You should always warm up with your opponent(s) before your match begins.
Ball Management	- Players should always keep a tennis ball in their hand, pocket, or ball clip during a match.
Keeping Score	- The server should always announce the set score before the start of each game and the game score before each point.
Close Call	- If you cannot clearly tell whether your opponent's shot is in or out, it's in.
Behaviour & Attitude	- Even if you're playing badly, refrain from shouting or looking dejected in a match.
Тетро	- Do not deliberately slow the game down.

On Saturday 28th January, there was the 2nd **A BIG BALLS UP**, when a lot of tennis skills-orientated fun was had by all, followed by a delicious buffet together in the Sala.

If you are missing out on all the fun, never fear, **A BIG BALLS UP** will return on Saturday 18th February.



SQUASHY BITS By Bruce Madge II

Oh Kim, Why?



The Universe's greatest-ever squash player sadly passed away late 2011. To mourn this dreadful, heartbreaking calamity we had a knees-up and conveniently combined it with our Xmas bash.

Most inside/outside/ underneath North Korea, and the world of squash, more than likely are/were not aware that Kim Jong II excelled at the sport. In fact,

Kim's sudden demise took place as he was journeying home from his first ever squash tournament in China, where it had taken him less than an hour to defeat the world's top 20 players one after the other, all 3-0 to the now 'Dead Leader' and all games 11-0 to 'Kim the Champion'.



He played with a perfectly natural talent, a breathless magic, and such sheer domination of the game after just a week's practice shows oh so painfully clearly that Kim was on another planet squash-wise. And while most of the world laughed their heads off at the news of his passing, to us squashies at least, his death is a cruel and brutal curse to afflict upon us. So vicious a blow it is highly improbable that we shall ever get over it. Nor is it possible for us to ever forget Kim, 'Father of Squash', the modest, skillful, little man in the shades, who would have revolutionised the sport of squash if he hadn't so selfishly snuffed it.



So to Kim's wake and Jesus' birthday party. Sunday morning December 18. Squash first. A great turnout with 25 or so split into two teams. Madge's Treasurers v Gandhi's Court Maintenance Mob. Captain Evans created a grid with all the names and it looked a right mess, but after some explaining it was all clear: each competitor to play one game to 15 against only three opponents.



So off we went to play some squash, but there's no point in reporting who beat who as no one can remember, no one cares and no one's interested save for the final result: Maintenance Mob 15 wins, or something like that, and Treasurers 12 or 13. So the Treasurers won easily and that's my team so hurrah! Stick it Gandhi!





Then lunch on the front lawn. WAGS and rug-rats too, so we had about 35 for a BCB Carvery with beer and wine and fizzy pop for the kids and Peter. All delicious. Marv away so tunes supplied by H and Evans' iPods. Peter's ACA Pacific had lumbered us with heaps of give-aways so we gave them away in the form of special awards for excellence, underachievement or stupidity.



And the winners were: Wally Evans for Captain of the Year. Tom Kelly was awarded Newcomer of the Year and Bernard got Least Hair of the Day. Star Wars was noted as Player of the Moment while Marc Sayer got mentioned as Smelly of the Day as he hadn't showered. Nick Mellor was voted Idiot of the Week, naturally, while Jayne Mellor got. oh, just look at the pics, will ya!



During/after, we played some football, made a human pyramid, at Nick's suggestion, and drank lots and more while Fiona ramped the music up so loud we blew out some windows and incited complaints and unrest. All in memory of Kim Squash II and in celebration of J. We'll probably do it again next December.

Until then



ERRATUM

In January's issue of Outpost, the text of Squashy Bits incorrectly stated that Poowis had won the Rod Carter three times, when in fact, he has won it nine times. The error is regretted. Sorry Poowis.

Sports

HARD BALLS By Squire Legge



After the rollicking victory first time out in Pattaya, the BC Cricketers were full of confidence when they took on the might of RBSC at the Polo Club just before Christmas for the Marshall Trophy, an annual fixture between the two clubs dating back to 1963. The Polo Club was immaculate on a glorious cool season morning, the only issue being whether to bat or bowl first on a wicket that experience told us would "do a bit" until the morning dew dried off. The decision was not to be ours however, when Dale predictably lost the toss and we were inserted ... but we were also not overly concerned since surely this was the strongest batting line-up we had put out for a many a year.



Alas, we got off to the worst possible start when the Squire himself adjudged Sailesh out LBW in the first over, and received the usual offer of a new pair of spectacles for Christmas with curry-flavoured earpieces. Worse was to follow as Rahul (14), who normally complains about not being able to run singles with Sailesh, then managed to be involved in two run-outs of both himself and Tejas ... BC's entire star-dust Indian contingent removed with less than 20 on the board!

Corin (32*) and Dale (15) in their contrasting styles (mature and youthful) then set about repairing the damage to some effect until Dale became frustrated after being bogged down for two balls and missed a straight one, aiming for Lumpini Police station. Against some tight fielding, Jem (15) was then the only batsman able to hang in with Corin and after his departure the innings crumbled to 105 for 9 off 25 overs. This hardly looked enough ... but, then again, surely this was the best bowling line up we had out for a long time too!

To be fair, the bowlers did bowl well with no luck at all and the fielding was good. Anthony (0 for 18 off 5 overs) once again was the pick of the bowlers and it was the 11th over before RBSC reached 50. But with the only wicket to fall, a brilliant

Marshall Trophy lost again4





anonymous catch in the gulley off Andy (1 for 21), it was impossible to sustain the pressure with such a small total and RBSC eased to victory by 9 wickets with 8 overs to spare.

Once again the RBSC were generous in their hospitality but, all in all, this was a very disappointing day. Apart from Man of the Match, Corin, the batsmen simply hadn't scored enough runs. But, who knows? If we had bowled first in helpful conditions ...?

Well, we were soon to find out because RBSC

generously invited us back for a rematch on 8th January, this time on a newly laid square at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club. This was the first time BC had played at this historic and magnificent venue since the 90's, it being a privilege just to play there. And of course if we won the toss, then this time RBSC would be invited to enjoy the early morning dew.

You guessed it! Dale lost the toss, but hey, RBSC chose to bat! With the return of Dr. White and Chitradeep, BC's bowing lineup was stronger than ever, so surely we were now in with a chance! After 3 overs RBSC were 11 for 2 Nick (1 for 22 off 4 overs) and Anthony (2 for 26 off 7) bowling beautifully. Surely this was our day?

Not! RBSC had a very strong batting line-up and as the overs clicked by, BC's bowling lost its edge and slowly they got on top. 62 for 2 off 12 overs became 140 for 4 off 24 overs, Jack Dunford (2 for 32 off 6 overs) being the only other bowler to stem the tide. 35 overs suddenly seemed a very long game and although Rahul (1 for 40 off 5), Andy (1 for 19 off 3) and Jem (1 for 14 off 2) picked up wickets as RBSC hit out, 50 runs came off the last 5 overs and 245 for 8 looked like a very good score indeed.

It was BC's turn to host lunch and after a decent rest we expected to at least put on a good show. 6 an over was the required run rate and for a while we were on target ... well, for one over anyway! Dale (11) as always set about things in positive style but unfortunately holed out before causing too much damage. There then followed a partnership of 66 runs between Rahul (25) and Jem (20) off 14 overs which might have been fine in a 50 over match, but unfortunately now raised the required run-rate to 8.5 runs per over.

They say lightning never strikes in the same place twice, but Sailesh then hit across the line of a straight one leaving the Squire with a difficult decision. "Out LBW" for the second





consecutive innings and a poppadum-wrapped brick through his windscreen or "not out", "couldn't see, sun in the eyes" and all that. Use your bat next time Sailesh!

All of this brought sexagenarian Dr. White (41*) to the crease, dropped 5 places down the order for having failed previously to score any runs with his new bat . Soon he was to be joined by Corin (24*), yet another sexagenarian, and these two put everyone else to shame with an exhibition of care-free stroke making. It was all too late in a lost cause, but 166 for 7 was respectable ... even if woefully inadequate ... a defeat by 79 runs.

Another disappointing day and no excuses this time!

But do not despair. A little bit more practice wouldn't go amiss for some, and sooner or later this team is going to start to click! We have the 30th anniversary tour in Chiang Mai at the end of the month, another match before that, and Paul's regular Thursday Night League providing everyone with an opportunity to get their eye in.

If any new players want to get information, please contact Jack Dunford for details.

BCGS GOLFING NEWS



Dee-Med and Ambassador Cup competitions Hua Hin

Friendly rivalry - that sums up our away weekend at the seaside. At Majestic Creek on Saturday, the Committee outplayed the Members and Guests to retain the Dee-Med trophy, thanks mainly to Frank's excellent contribution of 39 points and strong support from David L and Brian B. Running concurrently, it was no surprise that Frank's fine round claimed the Inaugural Cup (1) and Val's 35 points made her the winner of the Ambassador Cup (2). Well done Frank and Val!



On Sunday, we were faced with an unusual spectacle at the Imperial Lake View course - dry and fast-running fairways! In pairs, we took on the GCL golfers in this annual Matchplay competition, which has become an appealing fixture in our calendar.

With pride and some 'boasting rights' at stake, this friendly match had quite a serious edge to it. As the results trickled in, it seemed our disciplined preparation might lead to taking custody of the 'Bell' for this year. Moving on to the evening presentations at the beachside BBQ, it was disappointing to announce that our promising start had not been sustained and we lost by 4 matches to 2, with 2 matches halved. Brian and Khun Yurachatr

certainly played their part with a convincing and prize-winning victory by 5 and 4.

Not too disconsolate, we concluded the weekend's golf with friendly banter at a gorgeous BBQ buffet



and fully-stocked bar, lulled into somnolence by the nearby breaking waves (3). The defeat was soon forgotten!

December Stableford, Subhapruek GC Sunday 11 December 2011

That unusual event in Thailand, a cool and breezy morning, greeted us at Subhapruek GC for the final Stableford

competition of the year. A good number, including guest Fabio on a break from his base in Spain, and the 'new look' Jim Moroney (4) turned out to take advantage of these rare circumstances.



Whilst playing conditions may have been almost perfect, scoring in general was frustratingly less so! Only Barry Ashman was able to maintain some level of consistency to record 35 points and deservedly take home this month's choice wine (5). The rest of the field was left floundering in his wake.



However, the minor prizes did offer some consolation on the day for Fabio, John B, Jim M and the Captain.

And finally, for the ladies (6) an opportunity for some early Christmas shopping beckons, on the proceeds of a very one-sided private contest!!



3 Clubs and Putter Comp, Bangpakong Riverside GC Sunday 18 Dec 2011

This annual fun competition is traditionally held at the start of the festive season. This year, the Captain's choice took us all 'down by the riverside' to Bangpakong to enjoy a very pleasant and relaxed round of golf. The reasonably large turn-out included new members Mike and Khun Malee Andrews, and Martin F. Gordon's dad once again arrived in Thailand just in time to enjoy the delightful weather and to take part in the event as our very welcome guest (7).



Making a less than surprising visit was Santa (aka Martin) to get the show underway with his generous offerings of

mince pies, apple pies and snacks (8). And when the Captain finally decided on his old favourite, a 'bisque' Stableford format, the real show well and truly got underway. With players being allowed to choose only three clubs and a putter, it was clearly going to be a day for improvisation. Remarkably, and perhaps a little embarrassingly as history has shown, some of us can play just as well (or sometimes better!) in this event as we can with a full set of clubs!!



Although the round may have been a little on the slow side, the surroundings, ideal weather conditions and good company more than compensated. Suitably scrubbed and refreshed after our round, it was back to the Clubhouse



where John B (9) was quickly off the mark with the celebrations (others quickly followed!) and the Captain got to work on deciding the various prize winners.

Surprisingly, the scores were well above average for this particular event. Frank F with his trusty 7 iron, excelled in the near pins, with only Mike S preventing a clean sweep. Peter B won the longest putt prize, whilst Belinda and Khun Malee were the recipients of the Captain's mystery prizes.

In the main event, Khun Malee and Frank embarrassed themselves only slightly, impressively chalking up 37 points to finish as runners-up. But the top award went to a highly embarrassed Jack O who recorded 44 points and now has a golf bag full of seemingly redundant clubs! (10).



But the day belonged to Captain Ray. His organisation and generosity helped to make this another very enjoyable and successful competition. To this we all raised a glass or two (11).



Website: http://www.bcgsthailand.org Email: bcgs2002Qyahoo.co.uk Phone: Golf Society Captain, Ray Bloom-0870513548

BRIDGE

Bridge Results for December 2011

EVENT	RANK	NAME (PAIR)	SCORE%
Sunday 4th December (12 pairs)	1st	Khiri & Watana	69.52%
Sunday 4th December (12 pairs)	2nd	Kiatchai & Hiran	67.73%
Tuesday 6th December (5 pairs)	1st	Kiatchai & Hiran	80.00%
	2nd	Rochelle & Prasert	55.00%
Sunday 11th December (17 pairs)	1st	Usha & Lalit	65.26%
Sunday I'll December (17 pairs)	2nd	64.58%	
Tuesday 13th December (6 pairs)	1st	Chakramon & Pinit	62.00%
	2nd Kiatchai & Hiran		60.00%
Sunday 19th December (14 pairs)	1st	Hanne & Dr. Apithai	63.75%
Sunday 18th December (14 pairs)	2nd	Surawit & Watana	60.42%
Tuesday 20th December (7 pairs)	1st	Noelle & Christian	72.22%
Tuesday 20th December (7 pairs)	2nd	Benjarong & Wako	52.78%
Tuesday 27th December (9 pairs)	1st	Mike & Hanne	66.67%
Tuesday 27th December (8 pairs)	2nd	Supote & Chakramon	59.52%

December was a very hectic month, with players preparing for their own year-end celebrations and others cleaning up after the big flood. So, just a couple of photos:



Our esteemed tournament director Mike Sim after a particularly satisfying ice cream

Relaxing after a gruelling day of Bridge



The The Dangeored The Dangeored Dang Wednesday 29th February

.....

The Verandah 7pm. Free to Members

ீ Open to all Members ℃

- Introducing Joost Paijmans, our new General Manager
 - A chance to catch up with friends
- Free Canapés from 6.30pm to 8.30pm by our Executive Chef Khun Laak
 - Open Bar from 7.00pm to 8.00pm
 - Free Prize Raffle
 - LIVE MUSIC with the sounds of Matthew Fischer

Please book: membership@britishclubbangkok.org



The British Club Bangkok and the Bangkok St. George's Society invite you to a



PANCAKE FANLY FUNDAY (Sunday 19th February 2012) 3pm to 7pm

- Children's Games & Crafts
- Pancake Races
- Bouncy Castle
- Suzie & her Amazing Friends
- Pancake kids competition
- Parent & child races
- No Admission charge
- Afternoon Pancake Buffet & Bar (cash or member's account)

Sunday Brunch

Is available to Club and St, George's Society members and friends from 11.30am to 3pm in The Verandah



Please book: reception@britishclubbangkok.org



BRITISH CLUB BALUT By Sausage



BALUT SHIELD 2011-2012

There have been 4 tournaments since our last report in the December issue, which have seen lower than peak attendance due to the festivities and busy schedules after New Year.



T5 saw a Highest Aggregate of 566 from Tilak (Tilak Karamala), and a Highest Individual of 137 from TC (Phil Alexander), in an evening which saw rain interrupt the Carol Singers on the Back Lawn!



T6 saw attendees battling through the traffic and many getting stuck there, if not in the Churchill! The select few saw the Highest Aggregate being won by Sausage (Jeremy de Sausmarez) for 541and the Highest Individual prize going to Shanghai (Paul Williams) with 135. Great evening!

The almost brand new year of 2012 opened with T7 with a quiet evening which witnessed some stunningly good and bad dice, intermittently accompanied by linguistic exercises in

European languages and dialects. The Highest Aggregate was snaffled by Bowling Ball (Bob Van Es) amassing 530, whilst Ali Adam won the Highest Individual score with a significant 149.



A couple of days ago, T8 was an evening without jaw-dropping dice, a steady procession of fine play. Just pipping DQ in the final game, the prize went to Shangjai (Paul Williams) for Highest Aggregate of 510, and the Highest Individual Score was taken by Lindy (Sulindy Collacott) with 134.

BALUT SHIELD DIARY

In February, there are two tournaments:

Wednesday 1st February is the date for T9 and it will be an evening where due to good fortune, there will be a couple of extra spot prizes, so make sure you are there to try your luck!

Wednesday 15th February is the mid-month evening for T10.

LEAGUE TABLE

To keep an eye on your best of six average score, and thus your chances of winning a prize in the Shield, point your browser at: http://tinyurl.com/7ax9dkp

It's getting very close at the top of the table, with only 0.03 points difference.

BALUT CUPS NIGHT

OUTRIGGER

One of the highlights of the Balut Calendar is coming up on Saturday 10th March. The Balut Cup, the All Comers Cup, and the Junior Cup will all be played at the Club with a sumptuous buffet meal as well as free-flowing beer, wine, whisky and soft drinks for those who do not want their skills mixed with their good luck!

Anyone who would like to attend and play, but has yet to confirm their intent, please contact Bowling Ball as soon as possible so your table chair and pad can be reserved accordingly.

As always, we extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors **OUTRIGGER HOTELS & RESORTS** for the prizes, and **YES TECHNOLOGIES** for the unique Balut Online Scoring System (**BOSS**).

The Club wishes to acknowledge substantial support provided by the following:



Full details of Balut can be found at http://www.teambalut.com



THE BRITISH CLUB

Produced by Feld Entertainment

ehrate!

Saturday 24th March 2012 at 11 am Muang Thong Thani

et's Ce

A great day out for kids is just around the corner.

Feld Entertainment invites families to turn an ordinary day into an extraordinary one at its new ice extravaganza, Disney On Ice presents Let's Celebrate!, featuring more than 50 classic and contemporary Disney characters in a captivating compilation of favorite holidays and celebrations from around the world.

This is their only English version and we have secured some of the best seats in the house with the best view of this fantastic show.

Ticket price is 1,800 Baht which includes transportation to and from the venue.

If you book before 15th February 2012, you will get 200 Baht discount.

Meet at the Club at 9 am Coach leaves at 9.30 am

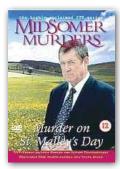
Please note: You may cancel up to 7 days before the show, after this time you will be charged for the tickets, however, we will make every effort to sell the ticket on your behalf, which we usually do. For more information, please email: info@britishclubbangkok.org

THE MONDAY NIGHT CLUB

Your weekly chance to sit back and relax The murder's on us. THE MONDAY

FEBRUARY

7pm in the Wordsworth Lounge. Full F&B Menu available.



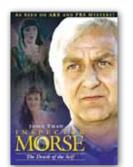
"A Town & Gown

mvsterv

6th Murder on St. Malley's Day

A secret pudding club in a top private boys school – the perfect start to a parliamentary future – and even lets you walk on the grass at school! However when a boy is killed, no one will grass as it is better to be dead than talk.

This sad murder trail casts John Nettles as DCI Barnaby with guest stars Luke Crane, Jeremy Child and Tom Beard.



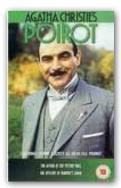
"Signore, ascolta!"

13th The Death of the Self

NICHT CLU

Another foreign jaunt for Morse – Vicenza in Italy with a side trip to Verona. Is Morse serious that an accidental death is a murder despite the evidence (or lack of it), or is he really meddling in the affairs of La Polizia di Stato just to satisfy his passion for Opera?

John Thaw is DCI Morse with guest stars Michael Kitchen, Francis Barger, Alan Rowe and Julia Goodman.



"Now you see him, now you don't!"

20th The Affair at the Victory Ball/The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge

Another Poirot double bill ...

A high society Ball and a high society Shoot have one thing in common – death! One is a simple case and the other is complex, one is about greed and one is about love and neither seems to be possible as the most obvious suspect was not there at the time of death in either case.

David Suchet is Hercule Poirot with guest stars Bernard Horsfall, Roy Boyd, David Henry and Mark Cowdry.



"I've started so I'll finish!"

<mark>27th</mark> Your Sudden Death Question

There follows a thirty point bonus on murdering your fellow quiz contestants and here is your starter for ten – what is the connection between cats and toilets? No conferring, I must hurry you, too late, the answer is (bang!).

Kevin Whateley is Inspector Lewis with guest stars Alan Davies, Timothy West and Jack Fox, with Laurence Fox as Sergeant Hathaway.



Each Sunday at 11am in the Suriwongse Room. Full F&B Menu available.



"The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes"

5th The Hounds of Baskerville 12th

The Reichenbach Fall

Episodes two and three of the second series of Sherlock – created by Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss – a 21st Century rebirth of the characters created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Sherlock Holmes with Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson, Mark Gatiss as Mycroft Holmes, Rupert Graves as DCI Lestrade, Una Stubbs as Mrs. Hudson and special guest star Andrew Scott as Jim Moriarty.

DUDLEY'S GRID No 4

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			

- Across:
- 1 Disk, quite the opposite of 11 across (6)
- 4 United Nations can or can't? (6)
- 9 Forget this solution! (7)10 Mollusc qualifies pace and
- correspondence (5)
- **11** Upright build (5)
- 12 Holder is central to this circle (3-4)
- **13** Nippy place to hold a Singapore supermarket (4,7)
- **18** Allow UK unionists to head east for salad (7)
- **20** Apparatchik is a scoundrel and a soldier (5)
- 22 Thick stew, with chewy and smelly bits (5)
- 23 Get a gleam from alter ego before Asian capital to the east (7)
- 24 I've got Joe's number! (6)25 Develop into volatile EEC mob (6)

Down:

- 1 Fibre going in two directions, quite fair (6)
- 2 Swoop, not quietly at first, for tiny bit (5)
- **3** Dopiest, confused, set down ideas (7)
- 5 Unpleasant old tennis player (5)
- 6 New train station has relevance (7)
- 7 High praise for European timber and Asian currency (6)8 Steerts??? (11)
- **14** An empire for a seat (7)
- **15** Eric and Len get confused and lie back (7)
- **16** The bottle is standard, not off (6)
- **17** Break away from the southeast and give up (6)
- **19** Very respectable vessel? Maybe not in the British Club (1-4)
- **21** A gander? See, it's just as slangy (5)

Solution for Dudley's Grid No 3

- Across: 1 Ruby, 3 Close-set, 9 Newborn, 10 Morse, 11 Rhyming slang, 13 Amazon, 15 Impend, 17 Bonfire night, 20 Olive, 21 Grenade, 22 Light ale, 23 Ides.
- Down: 1 Ring road, 2 Byway, 4 Linage, 5 Simple-minded, 6 Syringe, 7 Twee, 8 Domino effect, 12 Editress, 14 Adoring, 16 Frugal, 18 Gland, 19 Soul.



FOR SALE

A limited edition of 500 fine prints of: The British Club Bangkok by Louise Truslow **Framed : 4,500 baht Unframed : 3,000 baht**

20% of the sale proceeds will be donated to the Pisamai Fund for the Education of Children of the Club's Employees. Order forms are available from Club Reception.



