



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Outpost

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

www.britishclubbangkok.org

February 2015

**PAST
PARTICIPLE**

**CHRISTMAS
AT THE CLUB**

**NEW
YEAR'S DAY**

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AIRLINES

**GENERAL COMMITTEE**

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**FRONT COVER**

Christmas Day was really busy, with all rooms full of people enjoying the traditional meal. This year there was a bonus, a raffle for one prize - two return business class tickets Bangkok London Bangkok courtesy of British Airways. The raffle raised money for the Club's Pisamai Fund for staff education. It was truly a wonderful day for all of us.

EDITOR'S GREETING

Dear Members,

The January issue is very much a look back at Christmas and New Year, a superb month for the Club and its Members.

The cover is a tribute to the wonderful prize on Christmas Day made possible by British Airways. It's got an airy feel to it, as we float into 2015.

I strongly recommend Past Participate this month (p18) - it answers many questions, fascinating!

Ed.



OUTPOST is the monthly publication of **THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK**, the social sports and cultural centre for the English-speaking community in Bangkok.

A full version of the magazine is also available online at www.britishclubbangkok.org/outpost **Editor** - Jeremy de Sausmarez jeremy@britishclubbangkok.org

Opinions expressed need not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at time of press. Outpost welcomes contributions from Members, email outpost@britishclubbangkok.org - No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the Publisher.

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LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

After a very busy December, the Club has been quiet during January, except for the weekends at Poolside which has been very busy some days. We had our annual blessing of the Club by monks on 12th January, and the annual outing for the Staff Party to Hua Hin. We would like to thank Khun Prasertkit Soongswang for the privilege of using his house in Hua Hin again this year. It is 100 metres from the beach so the staff enjoyed games and swimming as well as eating good food and drinking. Everyone had a good day and we also thank the Members for letting the Club close for a day, and hope it was not inconvenient.

February has some events such as Valentine's Day on 14th, Pancake Day on 15th, and for Chinese New Year on 22nd our very popular Dim Sum Buffet followed by the Lion Dance on the Front Lawn. We will also have our annual Members Gathering on 11th. Please



Premrudee Tanyaluck

General Manager

check the calendar in Outpost, website or contact our events staff.

The relandscaping of the Surawongse Gate entrance is almost completed, with a new waterfall and an improved spirit house. We still have some tiling to do and railings in front of the waterfall. Mid month we started work on the changing rooms and toilets building on the back lawn, undertook regular maintenance on the multi-purpose court, and repaired the surface of the tennis courts also.



Please note the announcement on page 11 for the EGM on 23rd February - this is the final meeting about the redevelopment of the Silom Sala Areas which could make an enormous difference to the families and sports facilities here at the Club, so please come along and cast your vote!

The date of 24th March has been fixed for this year's AGM so all voting Members should make a note of this important date.

See you around the Club in February.

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah

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

1910 Balcony

3pm - 11pm (Afternoon Tea 3pm - 5pm)

Accounts Office

9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri), Closed (Sat-Sun)

Neilson Hays Coffee Shop

9am - 6pm

Fitness Centre

6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)

Churchill Bar

10am - 12midnight

Fitness Centre

6am - 9pm (Sat-Sun)

Poolside Bar

6:15am - 11pm
Last food orders 9:30pm

Thai Massage

10am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)

Happy Chinese New Year

22nd February 2015

Dim Sum Buffet

& other special dishes

The Verandah
11.30am - 3pm / 5pm - 9pm

Adults Bt 495
Kids Bt 295



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Lion Dance

Front Lawn

2.30pm - 3.15pm



Contact Reception or e-mail : events@britishclubbangkok.org

HAPPENINGS

The Christmas Day raffle prize was won by Julia Davies who gets two Club Class tickets on BA BKK-LHR-BKK. Congratulations!!



Jeremy de Sausmarez

**Events & Marketing
Manager**

Since the last issue, we have had the busiest Christmas Day the Club has had, a tremendous New Year's Eve cruise on the Chaopraya, and a staggeringly busy New Year's Day. All three were terrific, everyone in a good mood, lots of smiles and laughter, and such happy kids around. However tiring, it is a wonderful month at the Club, and really brings the new year in with a shout. Even the printer managed to get January Outpost delivered on Christmas Day which was a bonus, and at the Polar Swim we staggered the ice going into the swimming pool so the chilled water would thaw



the blocks of ice a bit more slowly. The New Year's Eve cruise took us way downstream to where there's nothing on the banks other than dark warehouses, making the return trip up to Wat Arun and the Grand Palace that much more striking. It all went that little bit better than expected which was fantastic, and of course the spell of cool weather helped as well.

This month we've had a significant Quiz Night, with a regular team, Under Par, winning both the evening's prize for top team as well as narrowly beating another team for the monthly Jackpot, so congratulations are due for a splendid performance. We've also had the New Year Car Boot Sale which was not so well attended - the next one will be at the Club's Birthday Party in April, when there will be a far more significant number of people around.

In February as Khun Prem has mentioned, we have Pancake Day with lots of fun for children and a competition with pancakes and pans on the schedule too. There's Valentine's Day which falls on a Saturday this year, and there's also the popular Chinese New Year Buffet with Dim Sum and other special dishes. Following on from that on the front lawn there will be the Lion dance which we started a couple of years

ago, with last year's show being most impressive - they do that 'up on your shoulders' tower bit as well which is staggering, the kid on the top being higher than the balcony!

As you can see from p21, sometimes no effort is made to park within the designated areas, which is selfish and inconsiderate, causing inconvenience and trouble for other Members using the car parks. Could I please remind Members that cars brought to the Club should have Club stickers for parking and be parked properly in the spaces marked to save trouble with the security guards. Furthermore, a reminder there is no overnight parking at the Club without prior clearance from management.

As we start preparing for the annual yearbook and directory, I see that there are a huge number (15%) of incorrect email addresses on the mailing list. There are mailings every week from the Club - if you don't receive them, maybe your address is wrong, so please email me and let me know so I can check the lists and the database too. Errors do occur and typos too, so please help us get this corrected as much as possible.

Have a great month, and beware Cupid's arrow!



Business Luncheons

2nd February - 6th February 2015

Starter : 55 baht

Chicken Cranberry Salad with Balsamic Dressing or Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 140 baht

Pan-fried Dory Fish with Caper Butter Sauce Served with Broccoli, Carrot and Garlic Mashed Potatoes

or

B.B.Q. Ham In Parsley Cream Sauce Served with Sautéed Cabbage+Bacon and Potatoes Salad

or

Baked Chicken Breast in Tomatoes and Cheese Sauce Served with Roast Vegetables

or

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)

9th February - 13th February 2015

Starter : 55 baht

Tuna Salad Tuna, Tomatoes, Lemon grass, lime and spicy dressing or **Chef's Soup of the Day**

Main Courses : 140 baht

Turkey Chilli Con Carne Served with Rice

or

Fillet of Pork in Pepper Sauce Served with Mixed Vegetables and Lyonnaise Potatoes

or

Pan-fried Dory Fish in Spicy Herbs Served with Mixed Salad and Boiled Potatoes

or

Gaeng Som Goong Phak Ruam (Sour Soup with Mixed Vegetables and Prawns)

Moo Tod Kratium Prik Thai (Stir-fried Pork Fillet with Garlic and Pepper)

Tod Mun Pla (Deep-fried Fishcakes)

16th February - 20th February 2015

Starters : 55 baht

Warm Bread Salad of Crispy Bacon, Parmesan and Poached Egg or Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 140 baht

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

or

Grilled Chicken Breast with Chasseur Sauce Served with Broccoli, Carrot and Roast Potatoes

or

Pan-fried Sea Bass with Pernod and Dill Sauce

or

Tom Yam Goong (Spicy Lemon grass Soup with Prawns and Mushrooms)

Pad Khana Nam Man Hoy (Stir-fried Kale Oyster Sauce)

Kraprao Kai (Stir-fried Minced Chicken with Hot Basil and Chilli)

23rd February - 27th February 2015

Starters : 55 baht

Grilled Chicken, Mango, Beetroot Salad Served with Balsamic Dressing or **Chef's Soup of the Day**

Main Courses : 140 baht

Fish and Chips Served with Garden Peas and Tartare Sauce

or

Turkey Lasagne Served with Mixed Salad and Garlic Bread

or

Pork Schnitzel Served with Apple Salad

or

Panaeng Gai (Chicken Stir-fried with Red Curry Sauce Topped with Sliced Lime Leaves)

Kai Jiew Moo Sub (Thai Style Omelette with Minced Pork)

Phad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy (Stir-fried Mixed Vegetables with Oyster Sauce)

Dessert of the Day : 55 baht or Choose from our à la carte Dessert with 10% off



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

F&B MORSELS

I hope you all had a very good New Year with friends and families. December was a busy month for the kitchens and January has given us time to breathe.

Coming up in February, I have just changed the "Khun Laak Recommends" board with a new selection of dishes. There are a few changes to the menu, removing some dishes that are not ordered and adding a few favourites. One new dish is our Homemade Cornish Pastie which was sampled by the F&B Work Group and given the thumbs up. It is served with mixed steamed vegetables and does not have very thick pastry! Try it out and let me know.

This month there is Chinese New Year, and our buffet will include dim sum and other Chinese dishes. Book in advance as it is always very busy, with the Lion Dance afterwards. There is also Valentine's Day and I will be preparing a special menu for dinner on that day for you to enjoy with your loved one. Of course on Pancake Day there will be lots of pancakes too!



Khun Laak

Executive Chef

The strawberry promotion is over, but we will be preparing a new selection of cakes which you can enjoy. We try to include seasonal fruits in cakes or desserts whenever possible so keep an eye on the listings.

I am always happy to receive feedback from Members about the food we offer here at the Club. Remember if you have any comments or suggestions, you can email them to menu@britishclubbangkok.org for us to see.

Happy Eating!



COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY

Bloody Mary

**ONLY
BT 100**



O COME ALL YE MEMBERS

Xmas Day 2014

The Clubhouse Reception was teeming with take-away bags of roast and other traditional vegetables. The Churchill, Verandah, Surawongse and Silom Rooms were all decked out with tables for eating or tables weighed down with food, or both. The Back Lawn was full of tables, with the buffet stretched along the patio area. And happy faces and lots of happy kids were arriving from mid morning to collect the bags or to take up their place bookings.

There was an entertaining magician wandering around, Santa appeared with his helpers in the early afternoon, and throughout Sam was at his table on the Back Lawn keeping energetic kids interested and occupied. And there were the raffle tickets, for the spectacular prize of two tickets BKK-LHR-BKK with British Airways, Club Class too, all costs included. A fantastic prize for a ticket priced at a five-hundredth of the value, or thereabouts.

It all started up again in the evening for dinner, but not so crowded, a rather cool relaxed and pleasant evening, which saw the raffle prize ticket being drawn. All that was left was Happy New Year!





JINGLE BELLS

Children's Christmas Party

It was only 4 days before Christmas and there was a great turnout for the afternoon of fantastic fun. The Bouncy Castle was in place, Sam and his Friends were doing arts and crafts, there were games on the court, and there were biscuits to decorate. Soon a friendly magician came on stage and kept all enthralled, and after that the piñata was attacked by an orderly queue of sweetie guzzlers. It proved tough to crack!

After moving to the front lawn which was covered with tables, there was a snack buffet with lovely things like nuggets and spaghetti. And just as that was settling down, Santa arrived in a tuk-tuk, bells ringing, and handed out presents to all the kids assembled there, amidst muffled ho-hos and hum-hums. But then, like all good things, it was time for him to go, and later for everyone to head for home. But what about the reindeer?





EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

“SILOM INTEGRATED SCHEME THE FINAL PIECE OF THE JIGSAW – REVISITED”

MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2015

In August 2014 Members approved the Silom Integrated Scheme as a way forward to redevelop the Silom Sala, the children's pool & playground, the squash courts and the changing rooms ... the final piece of the jigsaw that since 2012 will have seen a complete refurbishment of our Club .. but Members wanted further consultation on concepts before a final vote.

Over the past six months the General Committee have undertaken a consultative process of a questionnaire, focus groups and Sports Section meetings which culminated in the all-Members Focus Group Meeting on 18h January.

The General Committee have now revised the original Silom Integrated Scheme and thus an Extraordinary General Meeting to approve the revised scheme will be held on **Monday 23rd February 2015 at 7pm** in the Suriwongse Room: calling notices and supporting documentation will be issued on 29th January.

“YOUR **VOTE IS NEEDED”**

**Please note that only Ordinary, Country and Honorary Members
(who were previously Ordinary Members) may attend and vote at this EGM.**

PANCAKE DAY

Sun 15th February 2015

Family FunDay



Front Lawn
3.00pm - 7pm

No
admission
charge

Afternoon pancake buffet & Bar
Parent & child races Pancake kids competition
Children's Games & Crafts
Bouncy Castle Trampoline



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

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Celebrate your love here at The British Club

Valentine's
— DAY —
DINNER

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2015

THE VERANDAH, 7.30PM - 9PM

COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF SPARKLING WINE

INDIVIDUAL CANDLELIT TABLES

RED ROSE FOR LOVERS

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CHILLING OUT!

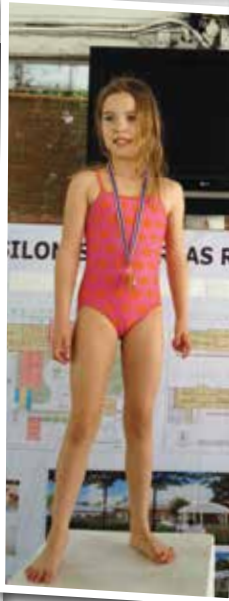
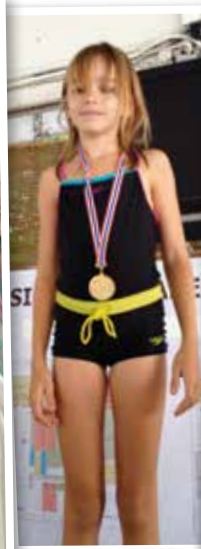
New Year's Day

After the late night welcoming in 2015, the Poolside filled up remarkably fast on the sunny morning of 1st January. As the blocks of ice were delivered and stacked along the side of the pool, the kids grew more excited and their parents searched for places to sit. Both Salas were full, as were all the recliners and tables around the water. More and more people got into the pool in anticipation of the icy Polar Swim, a now traditional Club way of waking up to the New Year, and this year there were nearly 150 people in and around the pool.

Then the ice went in, as did most of the kids, and there was fun and excitement while the blocks melted - the water temperature dropped, I was assured, and there was much amusement over collecting the remains of the blocks when they were hand-sized.

Later on, the kids were given swimming medals by Khun Amnat, and many of them had crushed ice with syrup which was being given out in the Silom Sala. The fun continued for the rest of the afternoon, whilst many adults snoozed by the side of the pool, recovering from the short night. Happy New Year!!





Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



2

BWG Mahjong

10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm

Monday Night

Movie 7:30pm

Wordsworth Lounge

'THE LAVENDER HILL MOB'



3

Squash Mix-In

5:15pm - 7:30pm



Bangkok Gentlemen

Spoofers 8:30pm



4

Ladies Tennis

Coaching

9am - 10:30am



Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm



9

BWG Mahjong

10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm

Monday Night

Movie 7:30pm

Wordsworth Lounge

'THE SET UP'



10

Squash Mix-In

5:15pm - 7:30pm



Bangkok Gentlemen

Spoofers 8:30pm

Quiz Night

7.15pm, The Verandah



11

Ladies Tennis

Coaching

9am - 10:30am



Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm



Members' Gathering

7pm - 9pm Back Lawn

16

BWG Mahjong

10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm

Monday Night

Movie 7:30pm

Wordsworth Lounge

'SUNRISE'



17

Squash Mix-In

5:15pm - 7:30pm



Bangkok Gentlemen

Spoofers 8:30pm



18

Ladies Tennis

Coaching

9am - 10:30am



Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm



Balut Shield Night

7pm



23

BWG Mahjong

10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm

Monday Night

Movie 7:30pm

Wordsworth Lounge

'THE ROAD TO UTOPIA'



24

Squash Mix-In

5:15pm - 7:30pm



Bangkok Gentlemen

Spoofers 8:30pm



25

Ladies Tennis

Coaching

9am - 10:30am



Tennis Mix-In

6pm - 10pm



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

BC Calendar
February 15

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



5

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 9:45pm



6

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Junior Tennis Coaching
4pm - 6pm

Kids' Movie
6.30pm, Silom Sala
'ARRIETTY'



7

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am

Thai - International Buffet
11:30am - 3pm
5pm - 9pm
The Verandah

Poolside BBQ
5pm - 9pm Silom Sala



8

Swimming Lessons
9:30am - 10:30am

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am



Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room



12

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 9:45pm



F&B Work Group
3pm, The Alcove

13

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Junior Tennis Coaching
4pm - 6pm

Kids' Movie
6.30pm, Silom Sala
'THE LITTLE MERMAID II'



14

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am

Italian Buffet
11.30am - 3pm
The Verandah

Valentine Dinner
7.30pm - 9pm
The Verandah



15

Kids Cricket
Book first!
8am - 11am

Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room

Pancake Day
3pm - 7pm Front Lawn



19

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 9:45pm



20

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Junior Tennis Coaching
4pm - 6pm

Kids' Movie
6.30pm, Silom Sala
'KUNG FU PANDA'

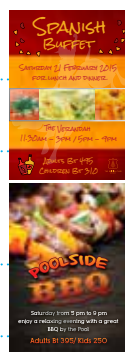


21

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am

Spanish Buffet
11:30am - 3pm
5pm - 9pm
The Verandah

Poolside BBQ
5pm - 9pm Silom Sala



22

Kids Cricket
Book first!
8am - 11am

Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm

Dim Sum Buffet
The Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room

Lion Dance
2.30pm Front Lawn



26

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 9:45pm



27

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm

Junior Tennis Coaching
4pm - 6pm

Wine Tasting
6pm - 9pm
Suriwongse Room

Kids' Movie
6.30pm, Silom Sala
'TANGLED'



28

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am

Special Curry Lunch & Dinner
11:30am - 3pm
5pm - 9pm
The Verandah

Poolside BBQ
5pm - 9pm Silom Sala



PAST PARTICIPLE

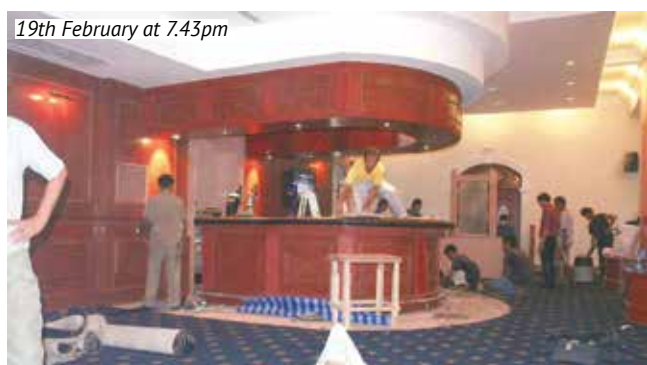
AuspiciuM Melioris AEvi

We look back to the history of our Club in 2007 ...

1 As reported last month, 2006 ended with the closing of the old Lord's Dining Room, an event which started alarm bells to ring with some members over the integrity of the entire Development project. On January 1st (at exactly 5pm as requested) a motion signed by seven members was presented to the Honorary Secretary calling for an Extraordinary General Meeting of members under rule 25. The motion read: ***"No development works are to be commenced on site until a proper, transparent and competitive tender has been carried out to engage a contractor"***. The rationale put by the concerned members outlined that in their view the design and construct contract was deficient in very many respects (for example being without a firm contract sum or a completion date), was unreasonably biased in favour of the contractor, had few of the usual liability clauses which were necessary to protect the Club's interests and was awarded without a competitive tender.

The Chairman of the General Committee met with two representatives of the concerned members and allowed them access to club documentation but the GC insisted that work having started must continue. The EGM was thus called for Wednesday 31st January and despite good presentations and careful arguments on both sides, a massive 141 proxies had been mustered which outnumbered the 79 members present and thus the motion fell by 175 votes to 45.

2 The first part of the development to open was the 'new' Churchill Bar on Monday 19th February 2007 with H.E. David Fall, the British Ambassador, invited to do the honours. It quickly became apparent however that the Bar would not be ready at 7pm, nor 7.30pm, or 8pm ... in fact as an attempt to open the Bar was made at 8.15pm, builders were still laying carpets, sticking tiles to the bar surround and drilling holes in



Paul Cheesman

the bar-top for beer taps [see insert]. For those members who knew David Fall he was quite a fun guy, renowned for his 'Modern Major General' performance and thus he spent the embarrassing period on the microphone telling jokes *Did you hear the one about Winston Churchill and his principal private secretary?*

The Churchill Bar did finally open to the aromas of glue and fresh paint and members were welcomed to their collective total amazement by ... a flight of steps ... contrary to the drawings, which had been signed off by the project manager, the bar floor had not been lowered to its pre-1967 flood level ... and that was only the first of many surprises ... members were greeted by a ply-wood bar-top with black & white tiled surround, red bar stools, TV antenna style wine glass holders above two sides of the bar, temporary curtains, red panelling decorated by a few of the old bar pictures [see insert] but none of the ship and club plaques or other memorabilia that made the old Churchill Bar and missing also were the wonderful Chesterfield sofas that graced the old Bar (the Chesterfields were eventually found rotting where the contractor had left them, in the old 'rubbish area' to the back of the clubhouse kitchens). The bar was so incomplete, in fact, was that it closed for two days on 27th February, again in April and in June and finally in July for remedial works to be undertaken.

Members were exceedingly unhappy with the bar and to many it was the final blow against the century long male domination of the Club. One member not to take it lying down was the late Steve Eaton ("Swampy") who insisted on a beer on the 'real' Churchill Bar the next day despite it being demolished around him [see insert].

3 In the light of the EGM and the disastrous opening of the Churchill Bar and with no sign of 'stage two' being close to ready the General Committee accepted a number of constitutional changes at the Annual General Meeting to help prevent any future repeat of the situation:

- A limit was placed on the amount that could be signed off by the General Manager and the General Committee on any project and these limits had to be agreed annually at each AGM.



- A new rule was created to ensure all large contracts resulted from a fair, transparent and competitive tender with a minimum of three companies wherever possible.
- A second rule stated that if the above conditions cannot be met, the General Committee must record in the minutes the reasons for an exception being made, and notify members accordingly by posting on the notice board.
- And finally a list would be held in the office of all capital expenditure contracts awarded by the Club, and this shall be open to inspection upon request by any member

These rules apply today and have been adhered to on all projects since then (as far as the author can ascertain). The General Committee, however, was still feeling miffed at the Extraordinary General Meeting being called and had put forward and passed the raising of the minimum number of members required to call an EGM to 20 members (up from seven) and thus, and sadly, no Extraordinary General Meeting under rule 25 has been called since that date.

4 Stage 2 of the Development was the new *contemporary, bright, clean, family outlet* which was named 'The Verandah' on 4th February after a member's competition. This also failed to meet its 'ready to open deadline' of 20th April. It was quickly discovered that it too looked nothing like the agreed drawings and much additional works were needed. A revised 'opening date' of 31st May was missed and it was then found out that Khet Bangrak (our local government district) had refused Building Control permission for the proposed extension onto the back lawn due to submission of inadequate paperwork by the contractor. June came and went, and by mid-July the whole contract was in crisis with the contractors demanding more money and most of the work still not done. In fact by this point in time 90% of the maximum budget stated had already been paid by the Club but no actual valuation of the work had been carried out.

Fortunately for the Club a number of qualified members came to the rescue including ironically several members

who authored the January EGM motion warning the Club that 'things were incredibly wrong'. A highly charged meeting between all parties concerned soon realised that we had been conned. The General Committee thus agreed to dismiss the contractor and the consultant project manager and appoint two new companies to complete the works. The plan was to create from the mess the best format that could be rescued and so The Verandah in a useable format finally opened on 30th October.

In 2008, after all had died down, a report entitled '*The Expensive Learning Curve*' commissioned from a qualified member highlighted that the Club had over-paid for work done by 2,350,000 Baht, that 507,770 Baht had to be paid out to 'rescue' The Verandah and an additional 1,001,276 Baht paid out to replace substandard materials and workmanship e.g. the Churchill Bar's ply-wood counter and tiled floor, and finally 430,757 Baht was spent replacing the unusable furniture already paid for in The Verandah. To misquote Winston Churchill "This was not our finest hour".

5 Of course, 2007 was a not one big disaster as lots of good things did happen ... the Tanglin Club and the Singapore Cricket Club both challenged our Club to play the dice game Balut, almost unheard of by us, and we managed to win both home tournaments and so founded the Club's Balut section; and in March Dr. Stuart Blacksell, an Australian, became first non-British Chairman of the General Committee.

A mass of other matters also happened in 2007: in April the Snooker table was replaced by a Pool table as a one-year trial; the CEO resigned in July and was replaced in the September by Michael Silcock (previously at the Mulgrave Country Club, Victoria, Australia); the 'new' Churchill Bar opening hours were reduced to 1am due to lack of patronage; all nineteen volumes of post-WWII minutes were bound and copied for reference purposes; membership declined to 1,029; and finally there was uproar in the Tennis Section over repeated failures to repair lighting, maintain the Astroturf on Courts 2 & 3 and properly fund the section ... but boy were they in for a shock in 2008 and you'll have to wait until next month to see what happened!



The author is Honorary Secretary of the Club

WITH THE MONTHLY JACKPOT

QUIZ NIGHT

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2015



MEMBERS Bt 100
GUESTS Bt 150

TEAMS OF 6 OR LESS

BOOK IN RECEPTION OR BY EMAIL TO : EVENTS@BRITISHCLUBBANGKOK.ORG



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

'RULES BRITANNIAE'

A monthly peek into our rulebook for things you probably did not know!

VISITING RECIPROCAL CLUBS

DID YOU KNOW...

you must obtain a letter of introduction from reception or membership services prior to visiting one of our reciprocal clubs.



This may be done by email if unable to attend the Club.



RULE 51 COVERS RECIPROCAL CLUBS.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THESE PEOPLE?



PLEASE PARK WITH CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS.

2015 CHAMPIONSHIP

BRITISH CLUB
• tennis

Men's
and
Women's



Singles
Doubles
Mixed

Starts Sat 17 January

Cup semi finals Sat 21 March

Plate semi finals Sun 22 March

Finals Sat 28 March



Email: amnat@britishclubbangkok.org

BCB 1910 FANTASY FOOTBALL

IT'S ALL OVER!



Bruce Madge

#	Team	Manager	TOT
▶ 1	Artois5.2	haroon Rashid	1,114
▶ 2	bangkok flyers	paul cantwell	1,103
▶ 3	Spanish Armada	carlos the jackal	1,099
▲ 4	Sucking Flow Suckers	David Brennan	1,079
▶ 5	Thai Thai Again	bob and james darke	1,069
▼ 6	Scunny	Neil Robertson	1,062
▲ 7	The Pride	Graham Murrell	1,052
▼ 8	Udaipur United	Nick Mellor	1,050
▶ 9	Bangkok Rockets	Peter Charlesworth	1,046
▶ 10	Attack attack attack	jem chalk	1,044

Top of the BCB 1910 FF League is as noted here and Haroon is definitely going to win it according to Phil who has chucked the towel in and taken up Fantasy Badminton since he dropped out of the top ten. Very sad, but at least it will give him back his Saturday mornings and afternoons, and other periods in the week, during which he used to endlessly and painstakingly pore over and over the EPL pre-match reports, expert analysis, player profiles, stats, opinions and other conflicting data from various on and off-line, worldwide, and outer space, sources from which he hoped to garner enough inside information and specialist knowledge to enable him to make the best selections each Saturday evening in order to maximize his points. Sounded like a good strategy until he realized that he was spending far more time thinking about FF than he was on his business, and furthermore, it wasn't helping at all, more like baffling him and raising his blood pressure to dangerous levels all the while he slipped further and further down the league. Hence, his decision to chuck it all in and look for kicks elsewhere. However, won't he suffer the same fate with the FB? Probably!



Phil's had enough!



Phil's new gig!

Moving on, it's Jan, or it was, so that meant the

EPL transfer window was open and in the FF managers received their second wildcard of the season, yet it had a restriction being it had to be played by the end of the month. Some played theirs too early and regretted it by making such transfers as bringing in players like Yaya Touré and Wilfried Bony while not realizing they were off to play in the African Cup of Nations until mid-February! We shouldn't really mention who made these ridiculous

errors, but it was Phil, Ryan and Chavstaff! Re the transfer window, Bony has moved to Man City, but we'll talk about that next time.



Careful!



Don't forget, I'm in Africa for a bit!

Happy Valentine's Day!

Yeah, but unavailable!



Player	Club	Points	Goals	Assists	Minutes	Value	Form	Rating	Transfer	Ownership	Available
Artois5.2	Artois	1114	10	20	12	71.30%	21	112	3		
bangkok flyers	Artois	1103	3	16	23	69.70%	20	72	2		
Spanish Armada	Artois	1099	1	3	17	70.30%	10	42	0		
Sucking Flow Suckers	Artois	1079	0	4	2	31.30%	30	30	1		
Thai Thai Again	Artois	1069	0	0	114	61.60%	0	0	2		
Scunny	Artois	1062	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0		
The Pride	Artois	1052	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0		
Udaipur United	Artois	1050	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0		
Bangkok Rockets	Artois	1046	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0		
Attack attack attack	Artois	1044	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0		

TENNIS



John Cork
BC Tennis Committee Chair

BC Junior Tennis Tournament

On Saturday 22 November, 10 boys and 2 girls played in the BC Tennis Junior Championships. After some exciting matches and quality tennis, Eric emerged as the worthy winner with Benjamin the runner up. FBT Sport helped with some tennis equipment vouchers on the day so thank you to them.

We must thank Pierre for organising and Khun Orathai and Khun Tom for their help on the day. Chris Watt took some excellent action photos as can be seen here.



BC Tennis Club Championships

This year's tennis club championships have started and the round 1 draw is posted on the notice board behind Court 1 so please play your matches and inform the results to the Fitness Centre as soon as possible. Tournament referee Chris Watt reminds us that Round 1 matches should be played by Sunday 7 February. A coin toss will determine matches not played by that date.

Anyone given a walkover in the first round is not eligible for the Championship Plate competition. The Plate draw will be made on Monday 8 February. Finals day will be held on Saturday 28 March and we have a good line up of prizes from our sponsors:-

- Sala Resorts • Food by Phone • JW Marriott
- Amari Hotels and Resorts • Spice Roads
- Samitivej Hospital • The Pizza Company
- Searra Sports Systems • Head to Toe Salon



November Tennis Leagues

Thank you to all of you who managed to complete your league matches. The winners for the league ending November 30 had a definite family flavour to them as follows:-

Each wins a THB 500 food and beverage voucher so well done to all.

LEAGUE	WINNER
1	Andrei Ivanov
2	Marco Charrier
3	Scott Cunliffe
4	Luc Charrier
5	Raymond Lewin
6	Benjamin Lewin
7	Chalatip D

Everything You Should Know About Playing Tennis

by Harold Mollin

THE RETURN OF SERVE

This is one of the most important strokes in tennis, and to “win more” you will need this information. Whether you are a beginner, intermediate, or tournament player, follow this advice and I guarantee you more “wins under your belt”.

First of all, remember the following “saying” when you are starting to return serve during the match.

“PLAY OR PAY”

Which means when your opponent hits his 1st serve, you must get it “in play”, but when your opponent hits his 2nd serve, “make him pay for it”!

That means attack the 2nd serve, but keep the return out of the net!

Now, as your opponents hit their practice serves during the “warm up” watch them carefully to get some idea of the “timing” of their toss (how high), and any “clue” as to direction they are hitting the serve.

You should watch the server’s toss, and the way the racket meets the ball – then see the direction the ball went! This might give you a clue from the toss and motion as to where the ball is headed in the service box.

Try to “return” a few to get the “bounce” correct on the court you are playing!!

Then, always remember to

1. Move your feet when you are returning serve. Try to get your body moving forward on each return. This will also help you relax and not “freeze” on important returns (break points).
2. Bend your knees getting ready for the serve.

3. Make sure before the server hits the ball, pick a spot you want your return to go. This way, it takes one decision away immediately – and makes it easier just to make contact.
4. When in doubt go crosscourt! This is the lowest portion of the net (over the middle), so the easiest to have the return clear the net, and you have “more court” to hit!

And, if you find yourself having to return a huge booming serve, do the following:

1. Change where you are standing: You should try to return serve “way back” behind the baseline – and I do mean “way back. What moving back also does is “change the servers” perspective of the court size and probably will make their serve “go off” (start to miss 1st serves). Not only that, but when they see you standing “way back” they will slow the pace of his serve since he feels he can’t serve it by you.
2. Perfect, because you have accomplished what you wanted!! You’ve gotten your opponents to not only hit the serve slower, but where you are now standing permits you to have more time to return the serve.
3. Remember, anytime you get your opponents to “change a winning game plan” during the match – you are already moving towards victory!

Good Luck.



SQUASHY BITS

WHAT A YEAR!

2014 was up and down as they all are. Our dear friend Tom passed away and we shall miss him, yet Nick Mellor and his family finally returned to Bangkok after years away in prison for fraud. Peter Corney returned to the leagues, but recently bought a new Volvo for almost 2 million baht that has no GPS or Sat Nav! Haroon broke a squash racket in half, while Evans bought a new bicycle he is unable to ride as it has no wheels. Sayer ballooned in weight as the author found out he had high BP so dropped 5 kilos and started eating more bananas! Chavstaff resigned, or got the sack, moved to Singapore, then returned; unreliable and fickle he is. What's new? Anyway, 2014 was so brilliant, words can't describe it. Hence, feast your eyes on the pics from events of last year and years past and of the characters that make squash at the BCB so fab!

Until 2016

The BCB Squash Section would like to acknowledge **Boots Retail Thailand** as its sponsor for 2015. **Boots Retail Thailand** kindly sponsored the 2014 Rod Carter Open, the BCB Squash Section's open competition, and has agreed to support the section throughout 2015.

Boots Retail Thailand has numerous branches throughout the country supplying high quality cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

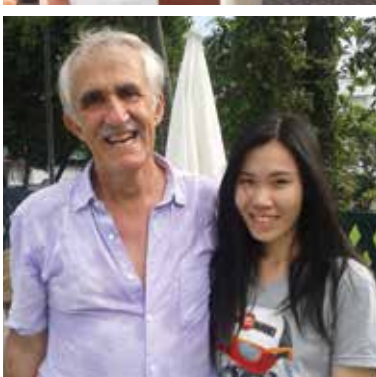


Bruce Madge





Boots



HARD BALLS

These are exciting times for BC's cricketers. Last month's bumper edition of Hard Balls told of a much welcomed victory over the Pangolin Club after no less than 35 consecutive defeats spread over 2 very frustrating years. And it went on to tell how defeat was avoided yet again in the following match in Pattaya, although thanks to a little bit of divine intervention. But could it last? Had things really changed? Or was the win just a flush in the pan, so to speak? How would the team fare against RBSC in the last game of the 2014?



Jack Dunford

December 2nd Fireball 6s Finals Night:

Well, before that we must deal briefly with Finals Night in BC's very own floodlit Fireball 6s. During the previous 5 weeks the Club had hosted the league stage of Series 4 on the Back Lawn multi-purpose court and all 6 teams were present on 2nd December to play off for the Spoon, Plate and Cup based on their league positions. Inevitably BC was playing for the Spoon against the Siam Parrots. But to everyone's surprise we were actually 5th, not 6th in the League by virtue of a much-improved performance the previous week with a surprise victory against the Southerners and a 'so-nearly' win against the very strong RBSC Polo team.

It was another balmy night after rain had threatened to ruin the show. The beer flowed; the Club served up a splendid curry buffet and everyone was in a party mood. But the teams have been getting better at this fast-action format as they have realised that tactics are important. Newcomers and Series 3 winners, Best Friends Forever, have set the standard with powerful straight hitting, backed up by carefully thought out field placings and strangling bowling strategies.

Finals Night was extremely competitive. No team wanted to lose and there was some breath-taking fielding and catching. As a sign of standards levelling out, a fired-up RBSC Jockey beat Best Friends Forever, to take the Cup, RBSC Polo beat the Southerners to win the Plate and, sadly, the BC lost narrowly to Siam Parrots in the Spoon having looked well placed to win for most of the match. But undoubtedly we were the most improved team of the tournament reflecting again growing confidence and oozing enthusiasm in the team.



December 13th: 25overs Vs RBSC: So back to that serious stuff. It was a sign of the changing times when 16 players made themselves available a week in advance, compared with the last few seasons when I have usually been scraping a team together up to the day of the match ... and they were all Club Members. The newly appointed Selection Committee had a tricky job and decided to select 12 to play with 3 named reserves; totally confident that guys would drop out with the usual pathetic excuses as the week progressed. But no! Probably for the first time ever, no one dropped out and the chosen 12 all arrived eager to take on the might of RBSC at the Polo Club. It was a beautiful cool season morning, the ground was at its gorgeous best and optimism abounded.

We could hardly have got off to a better start. Dale won the toss and elected to bat as is now our want, and Rahul immediately set about the RBSC bowling with abandon.

Undoubtedly inspired by the attendance of the lovely Poonam and Ishika, Rahul hit clinically with a very straight bat, scoring 35 having to retire not out in accordance with the game rules, off just 20 balls and taking the score to 70 in the 7th over. Riches indeed! Vaughan (31 off 28 balls) at the other end was also back in form and kept the score ticking along very nicely with Nick (38* off 39 balls) slowly finding his touch before finishing with a flourish.

At 162 off 22 overs, a score of over 180 looked likely but Aseem (26* off 26 balls) kept losing partners in a bizarre sequence of headless running almost resulting in three run-outs in 3 balls, the third one perhaps the easiest but fumbled by the wicket keeper. 176 for 7 was slightly disappointing therefore, but still the highest we have ever posted in a 25 over game. And surely enough!!

Well, RBSC also got off to an aggressive start helped along

by a generous helping of wides particularly from Rahul (1 for 43 off 4 overs) who bowled some unplayable balls, took out their dangerous opening batsman, but could not maintain the discipline of his heroics against the Pangolins. Speddo and Haroon were also expensive but, by taking the pace off the ball, finally Aseem (5 for 13 off 5 overs) made inroads with a lovely spell of teasing flight, and Nick (2 for 24) doing a very tidy job at the other end.

At 109 for 7 after 17 overs it seemed BC were coasting to a well-deserved victory. But that was without reckoning for RBSC's 10th batsman Raja who at that point ambled to the crease and whacked 40 off just 11 balls including 5 huge 6's, Manish going for 22 off the 18th over and Rahul for 20 off the 19th.

Raja had to retire not out but since one of RBSC's openers, Anil, had also retired this meant RBSC had only

one wicket to fall but 2 key batsman now lined up to return. Suddenly the odds had shifted! The 8th wicket duly fell and the final twist was a stunning catch on the boundary by Steve to finally dismiss Anil and put BC back in with chance. 9 wickets down and still 20 to get ... and surely Raja's luck would run out second time round!

But sadly Steve, confessed to having had his heel on the rope as he took the catch and a potentially match-winning wicket instead became 6 runs. Anil made no further mistakes and RBSC reached 177 for 8 with 5 balls left.

And so the year ended as it began with a defeat. But there was no shame in this one. It was terrific cricket match and there is much to look forward to in 2015. By the time this plops through letterbox we will have had our Annual Awards BBQ and our annual tour to Chiang Mai. These will be fun.



All played in BKK in 1980s



Nearly Vs RBSC



Aseem on form



Dilip about to be run out



Great start from Rahul & Vaughan



Raja aims for the pool

BCGS GOLFING NEWS



Looking Festive

The lighthearted annual three clubs and a putter competition kicked off with some Christmas cheer at Bangpakong Riverside. With a well-oiled swing, Chris Brader came romping home with 37 stableford points. He confessed to only using two clubs after declaring his 9 wood redundant. Runners up were Carol Hampshire and Yurachatr Brook.

Golfer of the Year points are awarded during the year for attendance and competition wins. The "Race to Lad Krabang" was particularly tight this year. Pete Gale boarded his plane to the UK in the lead praying that Frank Fawkes wouldn't win the December Medal, our final event of the year. Sharon Moore also tried to talk Tony into canceling their trip to Samui. As we came off the Royal course, the SMSs came flooding in. Frank's smile says it all!

2015 kicked off with the Stableford competition at Subhaprueck. Evidently everyone has vowed to get their handicap down as there was a great turnout. Chris Maclarty's fine play, including a near hole in one on the 16th hole, earned him 40 points and a bottle of wine. His handicap was cut to 17 just in time for his Matchplay final against Tony Moore. Runners up Carol Hampshire and Karen Carter also kept their New Year's resolutions and were snipped.



Marshall Miss Moore

Find out who won the Matchplay at our annual prize giving to be held during the AGM on Sunday 22nd February at the British Club after the February Medal.

If you are interested in playing with the Golf Section please let us know by emailing bcs2002@yahoo.co.uk. All that is needed is the ability to swing and drink at the same time.



Happy Frank



Stableford Winner - Chris Maclarty



Who Needs 14 Clubs

BRIDGE

RESULTS FOR DECEMBER 2014

EVENT	RANK	NAME (PAIR)	SCORE%
Sunday 7th December (13 pairs)	N/S Winner:	Dr. Apithai & Prarop	62.14%
	E/W Winner:	Chalernpol & Hsini	59.17%
Sunday 14th December (11 pairs)	1st	Charlene & Daniel	62.50%
	2nd	Dr. Apithai & Prarop	61.25%
Sunday 21st December (8 pairs)	1st	Dr. Apithai & Prarop	63.10%
	2nd	Dr. Prasart & Prasert	58.93%
Sunday 28th December (11 pairs)	1st	Wannawit & Benjarong	61.98%
	2nd	Dr. Apithai & Prarop	61.46%

Bridge Humour

A man is stranded on a deserted island for 10 years. One day he notices a speck on the horizon, and he watches intently as it draws near. "It can't be a boat," he thinks. "It can't be a fish." Suddenly, a beautiful woman emerges from the sea wearing scuba gear and a wet suit.

"Hi there!" she says.

The man is amazed. "But... but... how did you get here?" "Never mind," says the woman as she unzips the left pocket of her wet suit and hands the man a cigarette.

"Wow, this is terrific! I haven't had a smoke in 10 years!" "Enjoy!" says the woman as she unzips the right pocket of her wet suit and gives the man a flask of whiskey.

"I can't believe it! This tastes so good!"

Next the woman starts to unzip the long zipper that runs down the front of her wet suit. "Now I've got something you really want."

"What!" he says, "Don't tell me you've got a deck of cards in there too!"



Selected and presented by
Mike Smith

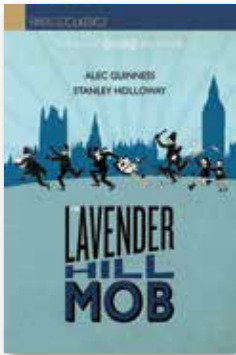
February
MONDAYS, 7:30 PM
WORDSWORTH LOUNGE

2nd | The Lavender Hill Mob

78 mins

Directed by: Charles Crichton

Starring: Alec Guinness, Stanley Holloway, Sidney James



A meek bank clerk and an eccentric souvenir maker decide to forge a shipment of bullion into toy Eiffel Towers so as to smuggle the gold out of England. With two professional criminals they proceed to plot their crime, which leads to some very unexpected twists and turns.

9th | The Set Up

73 mins

Directed by: Robert Wise

Starring: Robert Ryan, Audrey Totter, George Tobias



An over-the-hill boxer insists he can still win, though his sexy wife Julie pleads with him to quit. His manager believes he will lose, and takes money for a "dive" without bothering to tell him. Tension builds as he aims to win, unaware of what will happen if he does.

16th | Sunrise

94 mins

Directed by: F.W. Murnau

Starring: George O'Brien, Janet Gaynor, Margaret Livingston



After starting an affair with a vacationing woman, a farmer with a family begins a downward spiral when she suggests drowning her. The farmer reluctantly agrees but can't go through with it, and when returning home in the evening encounters a huge and dangerous storm.

23rd | The Road to Utopia

90 mins

Directed by: Hal Walker

Starring: Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour



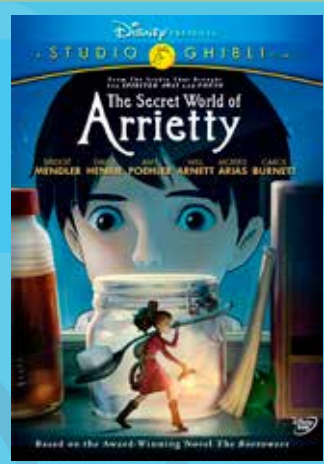
At the turn of the century two vaudeville performers go to Alaska to make their fortune and find a map to a secret gold mine. The map is also being hunted by a woman whose friend wants to steal the gold mine for himself. They all chase each other trying to get the map.

KIDS MOVIES FEBRUARY



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

**6TH FEB
ARRIETTY**



**13TH FEB
THE LITTLE
MERMAID II**



**20TH FEB
KUNG FU
PANDA**



**27TH FEB
TANGLED**



FRIDAYS

SILOM SALA, 6PM

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your Club
to your
doorstep**



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THE BANGKOK PREP CIRCUS PARTY IS BACK!

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children from 18 months to 5 years of age.

Saturday 7th March 2015

10.00am to 12.00pm

FEATURING

Clown Eckie ★ Fun games and activities ★ Pet Zoo
★ Exclusive school tours ★

★ ★ ★ *COME ON, COME ALL* ★ ★ ★
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