

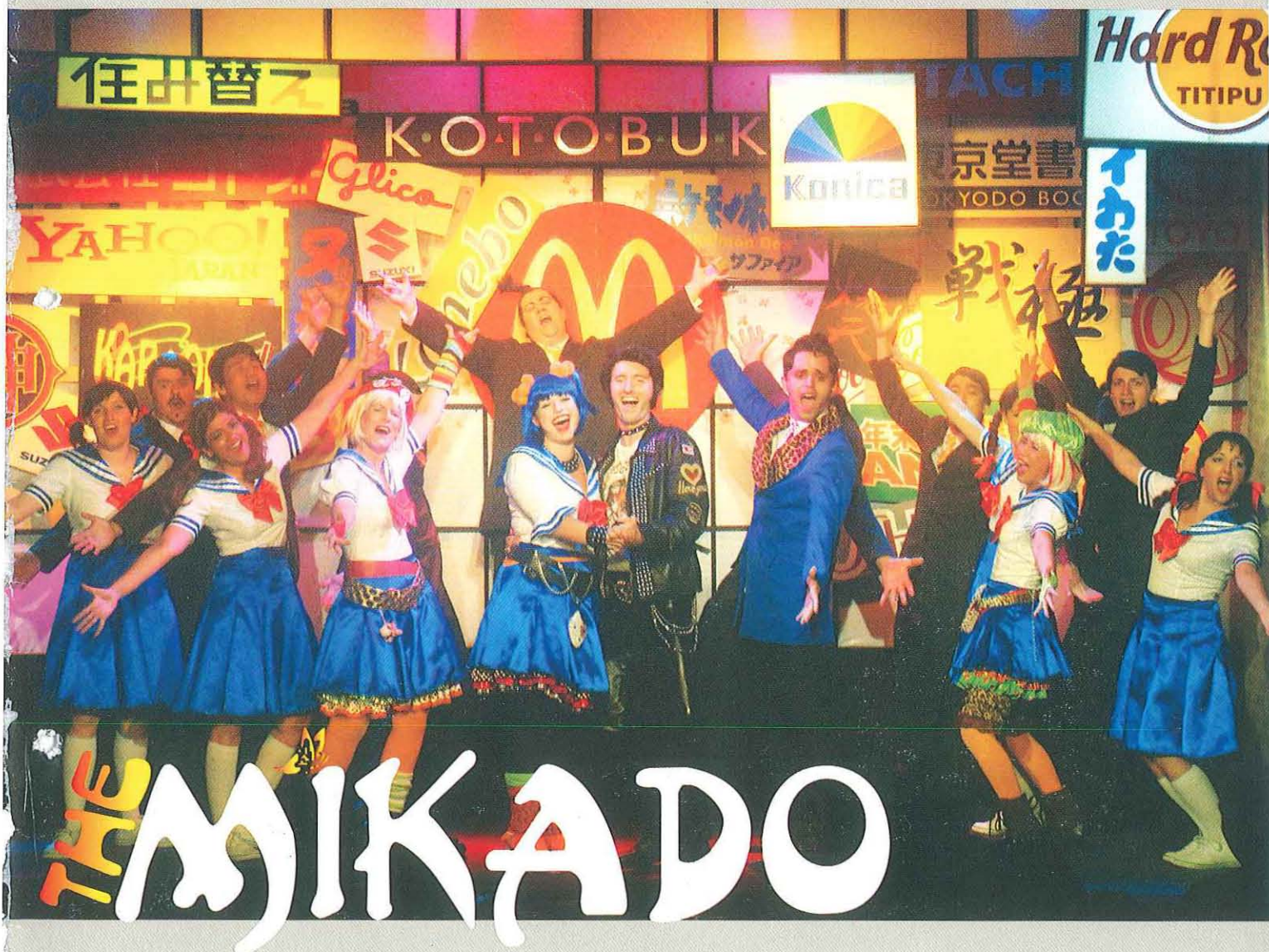


THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

The Magazine of the BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

Outpost

March 2009



A stunning production thrilled audiences for 8 "sold-out" nights!

Wine Cellar

Faces

20 Year Members Night

The British Club Pipe Band

Critic

Squash, Rugby & Golf

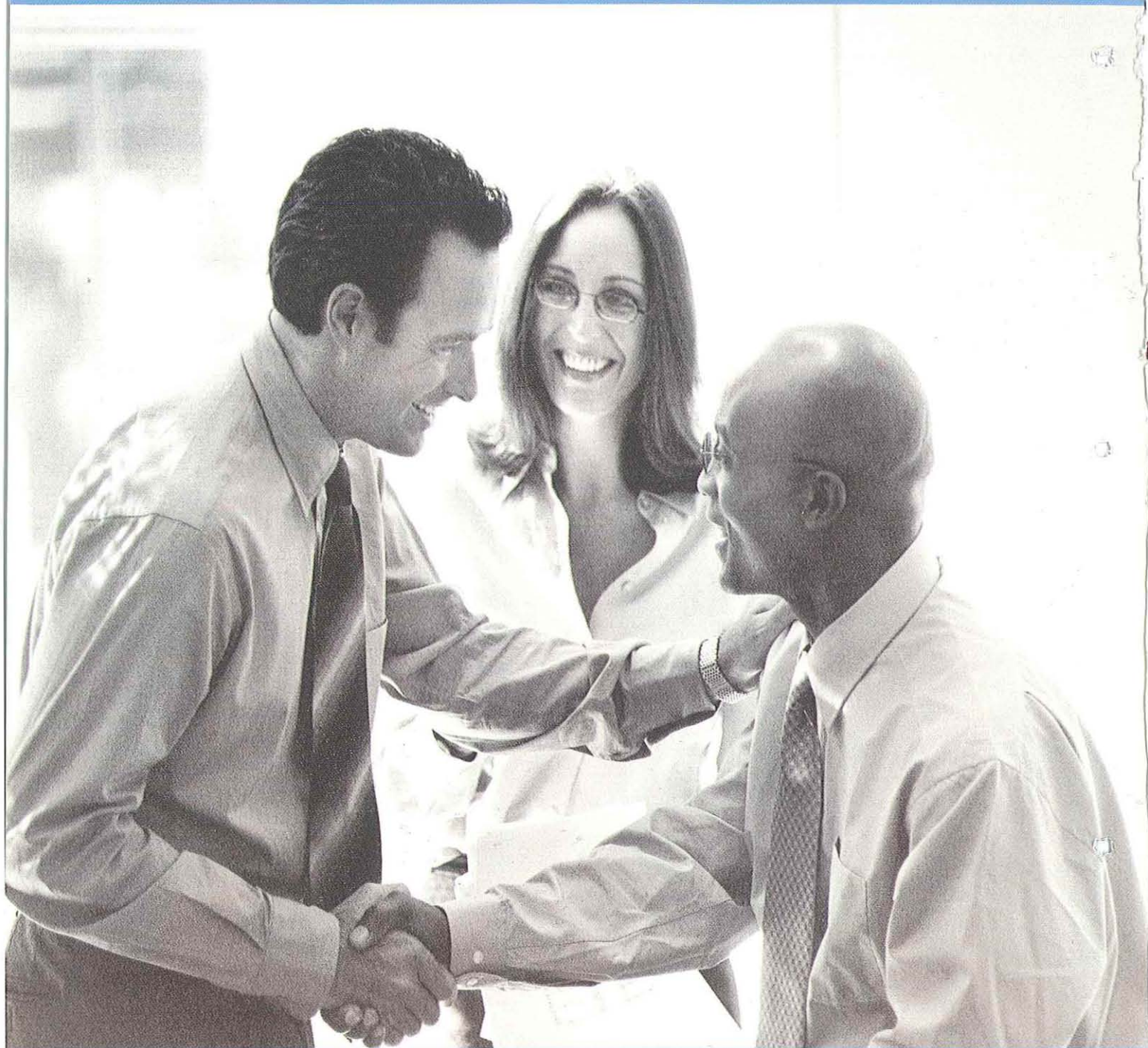
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JOURNAL

A Chance to "Get Past No"

THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

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THE NEW CLUB YEAR is nearly upon us, March 17 marks the date of our Annual General Meeting and the annual "reinvention" of the Club. It will be most welcome if many members put their names forward to volunteer their time in shaping the decisions that contribute towards the operations, strategy, and policies of the Club – the more the better. It will also be a big plus to the Club's stakeholder relations, if those that wish to play no part in the Club's decision-making process, take a constructive role in the consultative processes that have been established and open to all this year.

I have worked with GC colleagues to create channels of communication whereby members can consult on key issues. The first is, naturally enough, development. The Development Special Interest Group (DSIG) was created to facilitate a change in the development decision-making process, but also provide an appropriate communications channel so that all members can sit with qualified volunteers from the field, and debate issues in a friendly, small group environment. In the last few months, the DSIG has worked with Peter Harper to develop some visions of improved Churchill and Verandah facilities. As reported in the last issue of *Outpost*, and more specifically in the *Announcer* newsletter, these are nothing more than conceptual designs. At this early stage they are ABSOLUTELY NOT anything resembling a proposal to the membership. They are merely branching points for further discussion on a subject that has no "silver bullet" solution.

At the last DSIG meeting, 12 members met with three officers and talked candidly on the designs, their possible finalisation, costs, contractors, and the process that will need to be followed so that eventually members may vote at an EGM to approve any such rehabilitation projects. This was no village hall type meeting, no angry mob venting their anger; just a focus group type discussion, moderated by a Chairman and officers who have both a profound love of the Club, and wealth of experience and expertise in the field. This is the way to contribute to objective, principle-based discussion within the Club. The ill-informed, subjective expressions commonly circulated are becoming rather jaded and irrelevant – they serve only to erode credibility and create divisiveness within the Club. Moving from confrontation to cooperation is the way in which we, as an organisation, can "get past no" and move into an era of proactivity over procrastination.

AT THE END OF FEBRUARY I had the great honour of presiding over our annual 20-year members gathering. This was the British Club Bangkok at its best, the Club community together enjoying the first class food and facilities. I warmly encourage all those not familiar with the Club to join us, even just for a trial weekend, to discover what so many have enjoyed for decades.

"The conceptual designs for the Churchill and Verandah on display at the Club are simply that — they are neither final nor the result of any General Committee proposal to the members. They are merely branching points for further discussion."

Dr. Andrew D. Roberts

Chairman – General Committee 2008–9

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TheatreWorks dinner theatre production of Gilbert & Sullivan's zany comic opera
at the BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

THE MIKADO

article by BONNIE ZELLERBACH



THE MIKADO is one of the best-known and loved of Gilbert & Sullivan's collaborations. Although the operetta was inspired by, and purports to portray, Japanese culture, style and government, it actually draws on the Victorian and Gilbert's own (and mostly imagined) view of the subject! By setting the piece in Japan, an exotic location far away from Britain, Gilbert was able to satirise British politics and institutions more freely by disguising them as Japanese. The script also reflects the general British fascination with Japanese fashion and art at the time. TheatreWorks own version of this classic piece, echoed this fascination, but in our own modern times. The TheatreWorks production took an affectionate and admiring look at the Japan of today, drawing on the fashions as well as the now familiar brands and pop icons seen around the world.

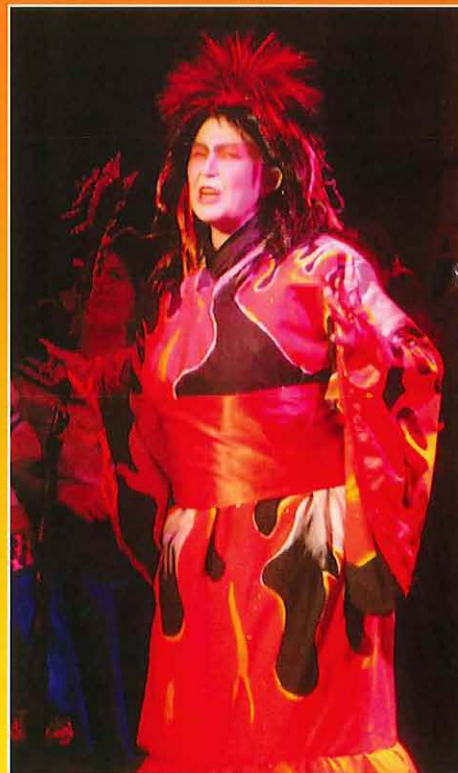
As usual, there were plenty of British Club members treading the boards and working away behind the scenes. The Director and Producer of "The Mikado" were the same dynamic duo who staged Bangkok Community Theatre's production of "The Pirates of Penzance" at the British Club in November 2006, "Trial

by Jury" for TheatreWorks in 2007 and "Rumours" for BCT in 2008 – British Club Bangkok members Angela Daniel and Bonnie Zellerbach.

Angela and Bonnie have a long history of working together. Between them they have directed and produced over 30 productions for Bangkok Community Theatre (BCT) and many of them were staged right here at The British Club. The January production of "The Mikado" was their second collaboration as TheatreWorks and they were very pleased to be able to stage it for Bangkok audiences in co-operation with BCT and the BCB.

THE CAST

British Club audiences were treated to a combination of new and familiar faces in this latest G&S offering. The story revolved around the leather-clad rocker



"Tickets to the weekend performances sold out within 48 hours of going on sale in December and the remaining performances sold out in early January. The Bangkok public knew that they didn't want to miss the madcap mayhem of "The Mikado" at the BC"

Bonnie Zellerbach

Director & Producer

Nanki-Poo [Brent Poling – last seen as The Defendant in “Trial by Jury” and as Frederic in “Pirates”] who was returning to the town of Titipu, because he had fallen in love with the beautiful young Marajuku girl Yum-Yum [newcomer Hannah Phillips]. To his dismay he found out that Yum-Yum was marrying her guardian and Ninja wannabe Ko-Ko, The Lord high Executioner (BC member Jonathan Truslow, aka The Judge in “Trial by Jury” and The Pirate King in

Catherine Harsono as Pitti-Sing, BC member and TheatreWorks co-founder Bonnie Zellerbach as Peep-Bo, newcomer Kevin Jesuino as Pish-Tush, and a host of other new and familiar faces in the ensemble roles. The music was in the capable hands of Music Director & Choral master, Eugene Eustaquio, and accompanist Tony Newman,

Similar to the updated versions of “Pirates” and “Trial by Jury”, this production of “The Mikado” was gener-



“Pirates”) and the wedding was to take place that very afternoon. To stir things up a bit, Ko-Ko received a letter from the Mikado (BCT veteran Ismael Mercado) saying that unless he executed somebody immediately, the town would be demoted to a village and disaster would befall them all.

Nanki-poo offered himself up for the axe if he was allowed to marry Yum-Yum for a month, an arrangement to which Ko-Ko very reluctantly agreed. There was much rejoicing until a fiery kimono-clad Katisha, an elderly matron/villainess [BCB Member Louise Truslow last seen as The Counsel in “Trial by Jury” and Ruth in “Pirates”] who was pursuing Nanki-poo, showed up to claim her betrothed. To top it off, the Mikado made a surprise visit and thinking that Ko-Ko had executed his son, decreed that he and his alleged accomplices were to be boiled in oil. But did that actually come to pass? Of course not! In typical G&S fashion, the impossible became probable, couples were rearranged and everyone lived happily ever after!

Other key cast members included BCB member Ray Stafford as the pompous Pooh-Bah (last seen in the June production of “Rumours”), G&S veteran

ously emancipated so that not only the look but much of the music had a more up-beat, up-tempo feel and parts of the action took place around the audience. The curtains opened in Act 1 to reveal flashing billboard lights and a host of Japanese icons and logos. A chorus of identically suited, briefcase wielding, Japanese supermen took the stage chatting on their cell phones. At the end of their first number “Gentlemen of Japan,” the lights dimmed and a mysterious red glow took shape on their briefcases spelling out the words “The Mikado.” That was the first of many delightful surprises the show had in store. A favourite highlight for many was the surprise entrance of the Mikado himself in Act 2. First the warning music, then the heavy breathing and at last the Mikado (aka Darth Vader, the villain of all villains) was revealed. Night after night that moment brought the house down – only to be surpassed by the Mikado/Darth Vader boogie in his showstopping number “My Object All Sublime” a few minutes later. Other great moments include the trumpet solo in “A Wandring Minstrel”, the gospel styled Act 1 finale “We Do Not Heed Your Dismal Sound,” and many more.

British Club Members enjoyed a great evening’s entertainment and also a delicious buffet dinner prepared by our Head Chef, Khun Laak, and her team. “Great food, great company and great entertainment!” commented one happy BC member. “I love the dinner theatre productions at the BC,” said another. “They’re such fun; I never miss a single one!” “The Mikado” was sold out well in advance with a waiting list for every performance. Several hundred would-be theatre-goers would have missed the event if the seating had not been so cosy, and the majority seem to take the squash in as part of the fun. We hope you’ll agree it was worth it.

TheatreWorks would like to express their gratitude to BCT for their ongoing support and also to the sponsors of “The Mikado” who helped make the event possible: BNH Hospital, Shrewsbury International School, Kotobuki Corporation, Oakwood City Residence & Oakwood Residence Sukumvit 24, Tilleke & Gibbins, JVK International Movers, The British Club Bangkok and Raja’s Fashions.



WINE CELLAR

JEREMY WATSON presents a new feature column in *Outpost*, the Wine Cellar. Jeremy has been a long term advocate of developing the wine experience at the British club Bangkok and has had the opportunity to work with General Committee (GC) colleague Warwick Newton to broach ideas with a group of interested members and bring output to the attention of the GC.

WINE IS AN IMPORTANT PART of many clubs, particularly in markets where excise and duty can account for 200-300 % of the retail cost of a bottle.

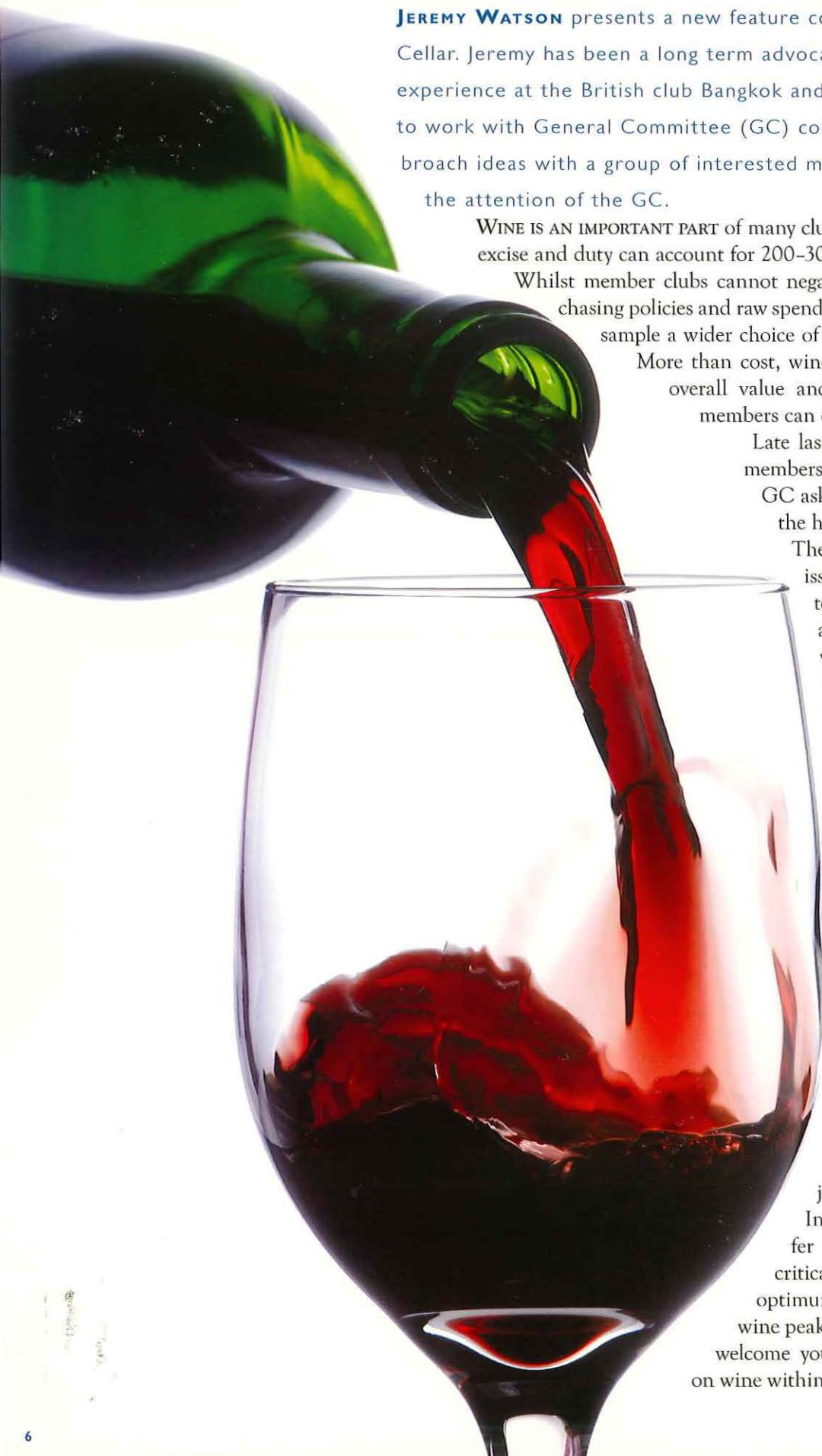
Whilst member clubs cannot negate this cost hurdle entirely, purchasing policies and raw spending power can enable members to sample a wider choice of wines at very competitive prices.

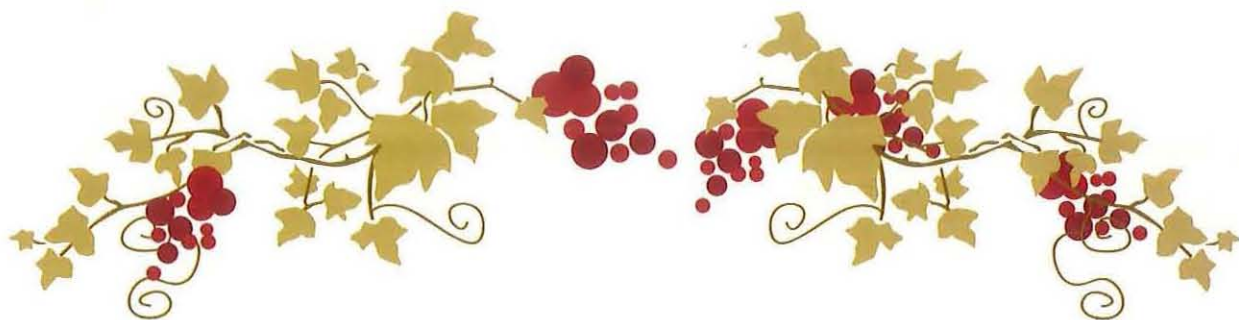
More than cost, wine contributes significantly to the overall value and quality experience that many members can enjoy.

Late last year I was amongst a group of members who submitted a motion to the GC asking them to take a closer look at the handling of wine within the Club.

The GC responded by asking F&B issues champion Warwick Newton, to proceed with the organisation of a *Fine Wine Dinner* – a chance for wine aficionados within the Club to meet and discuss wine whilst enjoying a sumptuous meal. In preparation for this evening, I placed a proposal to the GC to form a **WINE SOCIETY** within the British Club Bangkok. In addition to providing a forum for discussion of wine issues, the society would be a branch of the *International Wine & Food Society*, and be a focal point for fine wine within Thailand. After being co-opted to the GC, I have been afforded the opportunity to make some changes to the pricing policy of wine within the Club, and on a trial basis, I am about to debut a revised system in conjunction with Barry and his staff.

In this inaugural *Wine Cellar*, I offer a couple of articles addressing critical wine issues; serving wine at the optimum temperature and “when does a wine peak.” I hope these are of interest and welcome your comments and contributions on wine within our great Club.





SERVING WINES AT THE BEST TEMPERATURE

Ursula Hermacinski, a past Christie's wine auctioneer, advised that in serving wine "Twenty minutes before dinner take the white wine out of the refrigerator and put the red wine in."

This advice fixes the two most common errors in the serving of wine. White wines being served too cold and red ones too warm — properly chilled wines do taste better.

Jim Gordon advises that white wines too warm will taste alcoholic and flabby whilst too cold will be refreshing but nearly tasteless. For reds too warm they will taste soft, alcoholic and slightly vinegary whilst too cold they will have much less flavour and a tannic bite.

Champagne and other sparkling wines need to start out totally chilled. Put them in the refrigerator an hour and a half before serving or in an ice bucket with an ice-water mixture at least twenty minutes before serving, though for vintage bottles you then need to let the bubbly warm up a bit if you don't want to miss out on the mature character for which you have paid extra!

Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio, White Zinfandel and other refreshing white wines should be chilled to refrigerator temperature (usually 35 to 40 degrees) for an hour and a half before serving, with the better examples, such as barrel aged Fume Blanc (made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes) improving if brought out 20 minutes early.

Chardonnay, White Burgundy and other rich full-bodied and barrel fermented white wines of high quality taste their best at classic "cellar temperature" or 55 degrees. Winemakers in France know what they are doing when they offer tastes to visitors directly from the barrels in their cool, humid underground cellars. So put these wines into

the refrigerator an hour and a half before serving, but bring them out 20 minutes before quaffing to warm a bit.

Sweet desert wines need the same treatment as Sauvignon Blanc, with the exception of fortified wines like Port and Sherry, which are better at cellar temperature or above, also treat Dry Sherry like Sauvignon Blanc.

Nearly all Red Wines show their best stuff when served at about 65 degrees — cool, but warmer than cellar temperature. This is not room temperature, unless you happen to live in a Scottish castle. So if you keep your wine in a cool cellar or cooled storage, then you will enjoy it more if you take it out 30 minutes before serving, or if stored in a warmer place chill for 20 minutes in the refrigerator.

LET THE WINE BREATHE

"Would you like me to open the wine now so that it can breathe?" Yes I would like the bottle opened, but not for this reason.

One of the first things a waiter should be taught, when serving wine, is that merely opening the bottle does not let the wine "breathe". A gasp is about all that it will achieve. This is one of the most common misconceptions about wine.

But this is not to say that wines don't benefit from exposing them to air. Many young concentrated red wines, like an expensive Cabernet Sauvignon or Bordeaux that can age for several years, undergo a sort of micro aging process by getting lots of air into them.

The same goes for a young and concentrated or especially astringent white wine, such as a white Burgundy. The reason being that forced exposure to air begins to oxidise a wine, causing subtle chemical changes that affect both the flavours and the textures.

If you've ever left a half-empty bottle of wine for a few days in your kitchen you know that it will soon turn stale. The idea of "breathing" is to start the process but stop it in time — by drinking the wine — to achieve only a mild oxidation.

Just popping the cork isn't going to get you there, however. The best and most entertaining way to accomplish real aeration is to pour the wine into a decanter. It doesn't have to be crystal or silver, it doesn't even have to be a real decanter, just whatever glass pitcher or jar or ceramic bottle with a wide mouth that you have on hand. Your decanter, whether elegant or funky, can add a nice new element to the table, so it's tempting and perfectly acceptable to aerate young wine.

You don't need a candle for this either. That kind of decanting is called for only with a bottle of much older wine that has a lot of sediment in the bottom.

If you're at home, get your wine to breathe by pulling the cork and pouring the wine into the pitcher from the greatest height you can achieve without spilling everything all over the counter. The idea is to splash it as much as possible to maximise the wine's contact with air.

At a restaurant, answer the waiter by saying yes, please open the wine. Then ask if it can be decanted. If the restaurant isn't set up for decanting, then ask that your wine be opened and glasses poured for everyone, even if you are saving the wine for the next course. Your wine will do a lot more breathing in your glass than if ever would have whilst still cooped up in the bottle.





WHEN DOES A WINE PEAK?



Only a small percentage of the world's wine get better with age, but those that do are worth the wait. Drinking an age-worthy wine at its peak of perfection is something no wine drinker should miss.

My wine-aging epiphany happened with a bottle of 1959 Petreus from Bordeaux that friends shared with me last year. But I've enjoyed similar experiences before and since, and with wines that cost much, much less.

Certain wine types of the world, like red Bordeaux and white Riesling from Germany have proven their ability to evolve — becoming more interesting and complex in flavour as they get older — without deteriorating. Sometimes they'll go for more than 100 years, such as the 1870 Chateau Laffite Rothschild that I read about recently.

A more practical example is a case or two of 1980 Chateau Smith Haut Laffite that I bought at \$35 a bottle when it was released. I've been popping the corks on this wine at the rate of about two bottles per year since 1990. It's a taste pleasure as well as an intellectual exercise of sorts in following its evolution. It has gone from powerfully fruity and sweetly oaky in flavour and quite firm and tannic in texture, to much more mellow in flavour, with what's called bottle bouquet replacing the straightforward aromas of a young wine, and with more intricate, spicy flavours and a milder easy-drinking texture.

Thus a wine doesn't have to be super-expensive or super-old to show the benefits of aging. It has to be the right kind to start with, and has to be kept in a cool storage area that's as close to 55 degrees year round as you can manage or afford. Here's a look at several types of wine that might be worth aging, and when you should drink them.

BORDEAUX

The red wines of Bordeaux are the gold standard of age-worthy wine. Made largely with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes in the warm, south-western corner of France, they seem to have an inherent ability to age well. Vintages

THE WINE LIST

JEREMY WATSON has been a member of The International Wine and Food Society (based in London) since 1983. He was Chairman of the Malaysia Branch of the society from 1988 through 1992. He established the Guangzhou, China Branch in 1993 and was Chairman of that branch from inception through 1997, when he left China. The China branch grew to have over 400 members by 1997.

vary significantly here, but the best years will produce \$100 and up wines that improve for 20 years or more, \$50 wines that improve for about 15 years and even \$15 wines that will evolve interestingly for five or more years after their release.

CALIFORNIA

Francophile's claim that Californian wines don't age. Napa valley wines do age naturally very well up to 30 years. Most \$20 up cabernets from the Napa Valley and Sonoma County get a lot more interesting with age. Though most can do with drinking after 5 years.

RED BURGUNDY AND US PINOT NOIR

Some red Burgundies age beautifully, but unless you buy a blue chip like Domaine de la Romanee-Conti it's a gamble. Even more so with American Pinot Noirs, which usually don't have the combination of acidity, tannin and concentration to carry them forward in time. Red Burgundy at \$26 a bottle or more is safe for five years, but I'd drink the US Pinot Noir as quickly as possible — anyway they are too tasty to leave for long!

ZINFANDEL

You rarely find the magic happening to an old Zinfandel that happens rather

regularly with nice Bordeaux. Basically you should drink them on release and for a couple of years afterward. After 10 years in proper cool storage they won't turn bad, necessarily, but the odds are against the becoming more enticing than when they were young.

TUSCAN REDS

Many of these are too new to be certain, but most are inherently structured to age. The best types include Brunello di Montalcino and the early super-Tuscans like Tignanello and Solaia. All these can benefit from 10 or more years in a cool cellar.

RHONE REDS

Not as high profile as Bordeaux, but certain subcategories of wine from this French region have great track records for aging. Chateaufort-du-Pape, Hermitage and Cote-Rotie are three of the top Rhone Appellations (districts) to look for when you want a wine that will show its best stuff after 10 or more years.

GERMAN RIESLING

A great white wine with which to experience the benefits of age. The best types are the richer, often sweeter styles such as a ripe Spatlese, riper Auslese and super-ripe Beerenausles. Even Spatlese can improve for several years, and super-concentrated Beerenauslese can go for many decades.

CHARDONNAY AND WHITE BURGUNDY

The best wines for aging are often the most tight and tart when young, including French Chablis, the various Montrachets and Mersault from Burgundy, which in the \$40 and up price range can get better for 5 to 15 years.

PORT

Real vintage port from Portugal is virtually ageless. Aficionados today are still deciding whether their 1963s are too young to try. So these are a slam dunk for the cellar. A very good vintage from a very good label can easily improve for 40 years.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Keeping you in touch with news from inside the Club, including amongst other things staff rewards, workings of the General Committee, and musings from amongst the membership.

In the last month or so, members may have been in receipt of conflicting information on member dues and staff remuneration in 2009. On January 5 2009, members were sent a letter incorrectly informing them of a 3.5 % hike in member dues effective January 1. Discussion in the December General Committee (GC) meeting led to the Treasury Working Group (TWG) being asked to assess the effect of a freeze in member dues on Club finances, for report back to the GC. Following this report, the GC voted to freeze dues in 2009. The 3.5 % increase billed in January, will be returned to members. Likewise, premature reports of a freeze in general staff pay were incorrect. The GC voted to award performance-based pay increases to the general staff and certain managers in recognition of their achievements in 2008.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

On Friday 20th February, the British Club Bangkok announced that Khun Morakot Sukmai from the Garden Café had been selected as the January 2009 Employee of the Month. Khun Morakot was rewarded with THB 1,000. Congratulations to Khun Morakot from the General Committee, management and the entire BCB team!

Well done to all the staff and thank you for all your dedication and hard work for the club.



FINAL GC MEETING

The final meeting of the GC takes place March 10, it has been a long and eventful haul this year and I would like to thank all GC members for their time and dedication to the task this term.

CRISIS — WHAT CRISIS?

Barry Osborne

General Manager

As the year progresses we move into the time of the year when Club issues and the previous year's performance come under scrutiny at the Annual General Meeting — along with the opportunity to elect a new General Committee (GC).

As Members will by now be aware the Agenda includes a number of proposed changes for the term and the election of future GCs, and some changes to Club Rules regarding membership fees and methods of payment. All are designed to improve the governance of the Club and promote an increase in new members joining.

I would urge all Ordinary and Country Members to attend and if there are any members who are thinking of standing for the General Committee to complete a nomination form soon, so that we can inform all members of the candidates for 2009–10. However, if you wish to make a decision at a later time, members can stand from the floor of the AGM. Meanwhile, the Club is functioning quite steadily and the fundamentals of membership and our Food and Beverages operations continue to be sound. As with the economic crisis in 1997, now is also a great opportunity to still enjoy a full social life by using the Club more to take advantage of your membership and our competitive pricing. We are expanding our Food and Beverages specials, offering just as many social, travel and entertainment events and our fitness team are constantly looking for new sports offers and outdoor activities for all the family.

I would like to mention two other ways in which you can enjoy the British Club. Most items on our menus can be taken away from the Club to be eaten and enjoyed at a later time. Another way to benefit from your membership is to make use of our function team who can arrange any corporate or private members function in our 3 function rooms or even the front or back lawn. Khun Somboon, our popular Catering Manager is also a whiz at organising a function at your office or home, so remember the British Club when planning your next family party or conference.

Barry Osborne



Barry's ClubLife

Barry Osborne



GM Barry Osborne navigates his way through a busy March, dips his toes into April (an Easter eggstravaganza), reviews the polar swim, St. George's party, wine tasting and new members nights! As he writes...he is busy hatching some cunning plans for adventures in far away places just for you...

I'LL LET YOU INTO A SECRET. As I write I am esconced on a busman's holiday of sorts in an attempt to map out some new adventures for British Club members. As reported in my first *ClubLife*, the trip to Cambodia was a big step forward and lots of fun. With that experience in hand, I plan to branch out with something even more entertaining, just for British Club members. It's all a bit hush-hush, but I will keep you posted. Where was I?

Ah yes, March is going to be a very busy month with lots of activities planned to cater for all tastes. On Tuesday March 17th, Khun Laak will create her **GREEN FOOD BUFFET** to celebrate St Patrick's Day. The buffet will be available in the Verandah at both lunch and dinner times. We will also have promotions on Guinness, Jameson's whiskey and Irish Coffee.

The Club AGM is taking place on Tuesday March 17th at 1900, so the Quiz Night has been postponed until Tuesday March 24th at 1930.

BUFFET SURPRISES

During the month of March, our regular Friday theme buffets take on a new twist. Rather than focus on a country's cuisine we are creating recipes from British celebrity chefs. During March, we will feature buffets themed on the recipes of Jamie Oliver, Delia Smith, Gordon Ramsey and Nigella Lawson. The buffets, as usual, will be available at both lunch and dinner times. Check out the Calendars (pages 16-17) for further details.

We are now offering special set menus every Monday, Thursday and Saturday in all outlets. This is our answer to the global meltdown. Every Monday and Thursday for THB 229 we offer you a medley of roast meats, roast and mashed potatoes, cauliflower cheese and garden peas. On Saturdays, your choice of fish, chicken or pork steak available with home fries, coleslaw, side salad and dinner roll. All set meals also include a glass of Mont Claire wine or a soft drink.

Don't forget our Sunday carverys, Wednesday carverys, Khun Laak's recommendations and our daily specials.

On March 28th we are once again taking families to see The Disney On Ice "Princess Wishes" show held at Muang Thong Thani. This is a very popular event for the kids and tickets book fast so be quick to avoid disappointment.

EASTER AT THE CLUB

Looking further ahead, on Sunday April 12th, we will be celebrating Easter Sunday here at the Club. In the Verandah we will have an Easter brunch, which will be a bigger version of the Sunday carvery, and every child will receive a complimentary soft drink and an Easter goodie chocolate.

We will also be holding an **EASTER SUNDAY EXTRAVAGANZA** on the back lawn from 11am until 1pm. There will be lots of activities for the kids, including egg hunt, Suzie's crafts and a picnic lunch. Khun Boonchao, our Baker, will once



AT A GLANCE

March 17 — Green Food Buffet
March 17 — Club AGM
March 24 — Quiz Night
March 28 — Disney on Ice
April 4-5 — Chokchai Farm Visit
April 12 — Easter Sunday

Featuring:

- Special Sunday Brunch
- Back Lawn Picnic
- Britsock 5



"Another way to benefit from your membership is to make use of our function team who can arrange any corporate or private members function in our 3 function rooms or even the front or back lawn. Khun Somboon, our popular Catering Manager is also a whiz at organising a function at your office or home, so remember the British Club when planning your next family party or conference."

Barry Osborne
General Manager

again be making the Club's famous hot cross buns that will be available in all outlets. We are also staging **BRITSTOCK 5** on Easter Sunday. More details to follow, all in all an action-packed Easter for all the family!

CHOKCHAI FARM

On the weekend of 4th and 5th of April, we are organising a family weekend away to the Chokchai Farm Boutique resort up in Nakornratchasima. This excellent weekend *back to nature* features pony rides, milking cows, making ice cream, morning treks, lots of delicious food and sleeping in luxury air-conditioned tents. Two options are available – members can choose to take the coach with us or make their own way there. Contact me for further details or check out the Club's notice boards. Numbers are limited to forty. Further ahead in November we are planning a weekend away to Surin province in northern Thailand to see The Elephant Round up and visit the Khmer Temple of Pranom Rung.

As you can see we have plenty lined up, we are also planning music and BBQ nights to be held poolside and on the back lawn. More details will follow once things are finalised.



BCB POLAR SWIM

The Club's Unique New Year Therapy

On January 1st 2009, the British Club Bangkok welcomed in the new year at poolside with our second polar swim. This year we ordered even more ice to ensure that the pool was cool; the event started at 11 am and around 45 hardy members showed up. Apart from the swim and races organised by Reed, there were mugs of hot chocolate and mulled wine, a chocolate fondue (white snow chocolate of course) and *nam khaeng sai* (ice shavings with hales Blue Boy syrup and condensed cream). All participants also received special polar swim medals. Many thanks to Coca Cola for sponsoring Cuddly Polar Bears for 6 lucky members to win and also to Bonnie Zellerbach from BCT for once again loaning us the Penguin costumes.

Susie was also on hand with lots of crafts and activities to keep the kids entertained. Later in the afternoon, we showed the Disney favourite "Happy Feet." Well done to all the staff who helped make this fun event a great success and many thanks to the brave members who once again took part in Bangkok's only Polar Swim.



YULETIDE SUPPER

St. George's Society enjoy January Turkey

It was decided to hold a St. George's event in January as there is always so much going on in November and December leading up to Christmas but we still wanted turkey and all the trimmings! Where else other than the British Club could oblige?

Thirty guests turned up to taste the array of wonderful Christmas fayre which meant we all ate too much (what's new) with many of us sampling the mulled wine to give a real festive feeling to the evening.

Simon Bradwell had put together a fun table quiz over which Abbie Evans took control. The quiz was won by a HUGE team (we should have stated 'No conferring' at the beginning but never mind) who had to share the bottle of Famous Grouse but it created a lot of laughter as well as groans when the answers were revealed.

Becky McManus sold many raffle tickets but due to the closeness in colour, Marion Causton thought she had



won first prize however the bottle of gin was only in her hands a short while before the true winner, Sylvie Phillips, came forward. *Mai pen rai* Marion! There were plenty of mysterious, colourfully wrapped cubed prizes which Barry had persuaded Gale she could not do without, so ten of the guests went away with a British Club Christmas mug – they were thrilled!

THANKS

It was a really pleasant way to spend an evening, great food, good company and plenty to drink – what more could a person ask for? Thanks once more to the British Club staff for taking such good care of St. George's Society members and friends.



YUMMY

Grand Italia Ice Cream

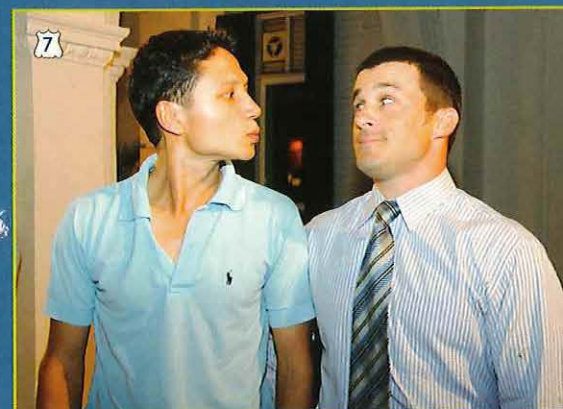
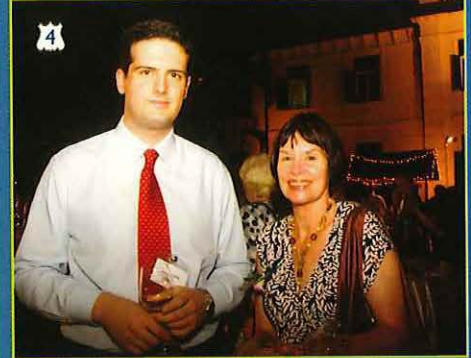
The British Club has premium "Grand Italia" Ice Cream available now. Enjoy your favourite flavours at any of our outlets

1. Banana Sherbet
2. Coffee
3. Mango Yogurt
4. Peach
5. Rhubarb
6. Strawberry (sugar free)



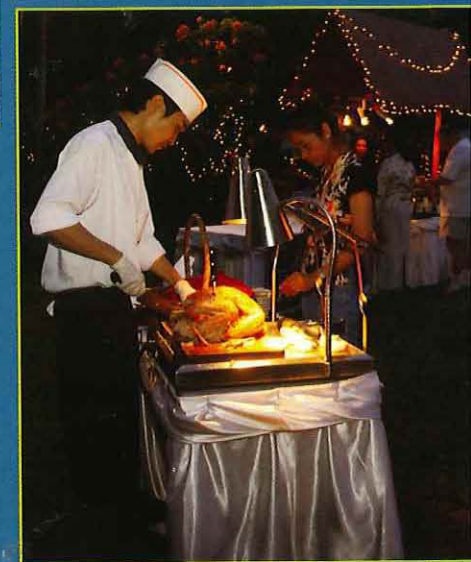
FACES

February 27, 2009 – New Members Night & Wine Tasting



NEW MEMBERS

1. Mr. John F. Bell with Club members
2. Mr. Robert Munday
3. Mr. Frederic Marcerou and Mrs. Stephanie Marcerou
4. Mr. Emanuele Fusco
5. Dr. Fiona Barr and Mr. Gordon Mortimore
6. Mr. Trevor J. Worthington and Mrs. Robin Rumbold
7. Mr. Michael Taylor and MC Reed Passmore





20 YEAR MEMBER NIGHT

A Very Special Gathering Celebrating our Most Loyal Members

On Friday 27th February, the British Club organised a grand party for its 20-years plus members. On this occasion our beautiful front lawn was packed with over 150 members, all enjoying the unique British Club community. The event was opened by Chairman Dr. Andrew Roberts who also introduced new members to the British Club family. As usual, Executive Chef Khun Laak and her team created delicious canapés and an excellent carvery to complement the wine from four suppliers, who came along to provide a member tasting with special discounts. A lucky draw was made with the grand prize of a round-trip air ticket to Siam Riep, which was won by Khun Paniti Chantanakomes. The General Committee and management of the Club would like to join all members in paying tribute to our long-standing members and look forward to future 20-year member gatherings.



PIPE BAND SECTION

Representing the British Club throughout Thailand

Angus L. R. McKernan

Pipe Band Chairman

The year 2008 closed with a busy schedule for the Pipe Band, particularly during the month of November with several performances being undertaken namely; on 11 November, Angus played the pipes at the Remembrance Day Service held at Hell Fire Pass near Kanchanaburi; on 21 November the Band performed at the International Balut Tournament held at the British Club Bangkok; on 22 November the Band performed at the St. Andrew's Society Bangkok Ball held at the Amari Watergate Hotel and on 29 November the Band performed at the British Community Fair held at Shrewsbury School. All performances went off very well.

The Pipe Band held its AGM at the British Club on 28 January 2009 and the following members were appointed and elected to the Committee for 2009/2010:

- Angus McKernan — Chairman
- Keith Walker — Pipe Major
- George Morgan — Leading Drummer
- Adam Sharp — Secretary/Treasurer
- Martin Hodgson — Marketing
- Mike Brooks — Pipe Sergeant, St. Andrew's Society Bangkok Representative

Wednesday evening practices have also recommenced following the Christmas/New Year holidays break. At present the Band's strength remains at seven pipers and four drummers — a total of eleven players, which is starting to approach a good size band. A good size band would be twelve pipers and seven drummers (three bass section and four snares). However, the possibility of the band ever achieving such numbers is slim. With the resources we have at present the band's focus will be on quality as opposed to quantity and the Band is currently learning new tunes for the year, starting with the ANZAC Day parades in Kanchanaburi on 24 and 25 April 2009.

ANZAC PARADES 2009

The ANZAC Day parades are probably the Band's highlight parades each year. The event commences on the evening before, the 24th April, with the Band playing at the dinner held at the resort Home Putey, where delegates, surviving ex POW's, veterans, Embassy officials, visitors from Australia and New Zealand, the "Quiet Lions" (veterans and families of veterans from Australia) and the Allied Forces get together and attend the "Light and Sound Show" followed by supper at the Resort. The "Dawn Service" at Hell Fire Pass starts at 05:30 the next morning; the Memorial in the rail cutting. Afterwards, the whole entourage then travels to Kanchanaburi to the Allied War Cemetery for the 11:00 Wreath Laying Service, which is attended by ex-Pow's, war veterans, several dignitaries and Embassy officials including representatives from the Royal Thai Armed Services. After the 11 O'clock service a luncheon is held on the floating restaurant near the new Bridge over the River Kwai. Last year, on the 26th, the band played at the Australian Rules football match between Bangkok Tigers and Jakarta Bintang. The ex-POW's attended the match as guests of honour and a great time is had by all.

The Band is looking forward to ANZAC Day 2009 and is practicing hard so as to acquit itself well on the day and contribute positively to a such an historical occasion.



Remembrance Day Service Hell Fire Pass
21 November 2008



"The British Club Pipe Band Section, along with the Football and Rugby Sections, is one of the most visible and welcome representatives of the British Club Bangkok not only within the Bangkok expatriate community, but within Thailand as a whole"

Andrew D. Roberts

Chairman



February 2009
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22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 — Welsh Sunday Carvery (noon—2 pm in The Verandah) — Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	2	3	4 — Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner in the Verandah) — Rod Stewart in concert — Social Member football 6:30 pm	5	6 — Jamie Oliver's Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) — Junior Swimming lessons 3-6 pm — Junior Tennis lessons 3-6 pm	7 — Junior Swimming lessons 10 am-1 pm
8 — Sunday Carvery (noon-2 pm in The Verandah) — Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	9	10	11 — Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner in the Verandah) — Social Member football 6:30 pm	12	13 — Delia Smith's Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) — Junior Swimming lessons 3-6 pm — Junior Tennis lessons 3-6 pm	14 — Junior Swimming lessons 10 am-1 pm
15 — Sunday Carvery (noon-2 pm in The Verandah) — Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	16	17 — British Club AGM 7 pm — Irish Green Buffet	18 — Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) — Social Member football 6:30 pm	19	20 — Gordon Ramsey's Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) — Junior Swimming lessons 3-6 pm — Junior Tennis lessons 3-6 pm	21 — Caravan Theatre — Two Fabulous Flights of Fancy Shows 1-4 pm — Junior Swimming lessons 10 am-1 pm
22 — Caravan Theatre — Two Fabulous Flights of Fancy Shows 1-4 pm — Sunday Carvery (noon-2 pm The Verandah) — Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	23 — Bar Quiz 7:30 pm	24	25 — Wednesday Carvery (Lunch & Dinner at the Verandah) — Social Member football 6:30 pm	26	27 EIGHT NIGHT 7:30pm — Nigella Lawson's Buffet (Lunch & Dinner) — Monthly Wine Tasting 6-9 pm — Junior Tennis & Swimming lessons 3-6 pm	28 — Disney on Ice: Princess Wishes (Coach leaves the Club at 9:30 am) — Junior Swimming Lessons 10 am-1 pm
29 — Caravan Theatre — Two Fabulous Flights of Fancy Shows 1-4 pm — Sunday Carvery (noon-2 pm The Verandah) — Junior Rugby lessons 3 pm	30	31	21st, 22nd and 29th March @ 1-4 pm: Caravan Theatre's "Two Fabulous Flights of Fancy" will be performed at the club. First play is Doctor Concocter, a wonderful, one-person play based on the poem which inspired the famous Doctor Doolittle books. The second play, Mr Imagination, is a one-man show featuring Australian children's entertainer Dancin Dan. Both shows run 35 minutes long, and are performed as one event. A buffet meal (extra charges apply) is available on the lawn, before and after each performance. Due to the advanced nature of the poetic language, the shows are most appropriate for ages 7 to teens.			

Tickets are available at The British Club (For BC Members only), or by calling 089 689 3789 or email caravantheatrethailand@yahoo.com. Tickets cost Bt 350 / adults and Bt 300 / children.

April 2009

March 2009
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22 23 24 25 26 27 28
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March 2009
S M T W T F S
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10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Fresh Hot Cross Buns on sale until April 13.	2	3 — Junior Swimming lessons 3-6 pm — Junior Tennis lessons 3-6 pm	4 — Junior Swimming lessons 10 am-1 pm
5 Chokchai Farm Camp Weekend Day 1	6 Chokchai Farm Camp Weekend Day 2	7 — Sports Camp (all-day)	8 — Sports Camp (all-day)	9 — Sports Camp (all-day)	10 — Sports Camp (all-day)	11
12 — Cadbury Adams Easter Sunday Eggsstravaganza! 11 am — Easter Sunday Verandah Brunch from 11.30 am — Britsock 5	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 — Junior Rugby Lessons 3 pm	20	21 — Boxing Lessons 2-3 pm	22	23 — Boxing Lessons 2-3 pm	24 — Junior Swimming Lessons 3-6 pm — Junior Tennis Lessons 3-6 pm	25 — Junior Swimming lessons 10 am-1 pm
26 — Junior Rugby Lessons 3 pm	27	28 — Boxing Lessons 2-3 pm	29	30 — Boxing Lessons 2-3 pm		

CRITIC

This month's CRITIC, **ANDREW ROBERTS**, takes a look at some book releases, games, and poses two fiendish Sudoku...



Much is written about video games being a bad influence; scare stories abound about the effects of games on children and certain games, *Grand Theft Auto IV* being one, are banned here in Thailand. However, as most parents will be aware, it is difficult to stop kids playing games, especially if they have received a games console for Christmas.

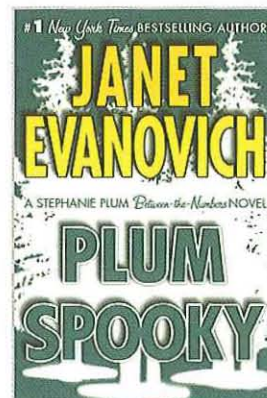
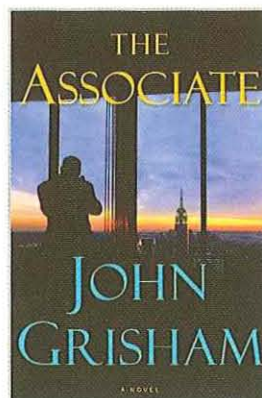
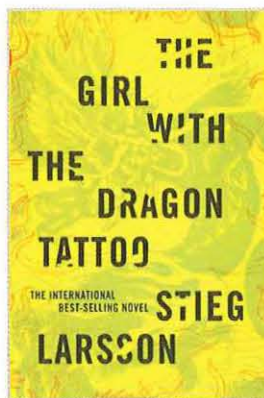
For me, it is a matter of choosing games to play for children, and the Nintendo DS has a wonderful range of games for all ages. In *Big Bang Mini*, your main objective is to use the stylus to create fireworks and destroy the waves of enemies that loom overhead. Miss and you'll be forced to tackle another challenge – avoiding the sparks created by your falling fireworks. Celebrate the completion of a level by designing the Final Bouquet – a one-of-a-kind masterpiece that will proclaim your victory!

The touch screen shooting and dodging controls feel great, and over 90 levels the game always has a new trick up its sleeve. On top of that, there are fun multiplayer modes and a no-fail "relax" mode where you can just enjoy the fireworks display.

Other games in the *touch generations* series are equally suitable for child and parent enjoyment. If you have XBOX Live you can contact, and play me at my gamertag <erawan1>



BOOKS



THREE BOOKS THIS MONTH, one author (Grisham) surely known to most, the other two may surprise you. Janet Evanovich's *Plum Spooky*, is the latest in a line of Stephanie Plum novels, a Trenton-based bounty hunter who makes a hilarious habit of failing to apprehend an ever-widening cast of freaks, criminals, deranged felons, and lunatics! Plum's sidekick, Lula, is a plus-sized African-American women who in addition to packing a Glock 45, possesses a rapier wit. A great addition to the series, yet probably best on audiobook, where the characters are truly brought to life by brilliant narrator, Lorelei King.

STIEG LARSSON'S *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* has gone to the top of my list as best mystery/thriller. The mysteries unfold in Sweden as the characters, Lisbeth and Mikael, try to crack multiple perplexing crimes, one taking place 20 years ago. Lisbeth is a firecracker young woman who has Asperger's Syndrome and is a captivating character. She sees the world and how we interact with each other very differently and it was interesting to see how she reacted to sometimes bizarre or horror-ridden circumstances. Just when I was thinking there wasn't anything new on the horizon, along comes Larsson with this wonderfully unique story.

JOHN GRISHAM'S *The Associate* is not at all to the standards that I have come to expect from one of my favourite authors. It was hard to accept the initial premise of the storyline i.e. Kyle could do nothing and could not get any type of help. Then after dealing with this flawed premise Grisham unveils the obvious solution – The End – and he lived happily ever after. The quick ending left far too many issues hanging and unresolved. Throughout the book I kept waiting for the real story to develop knowing that there was going to be more. Rather disappointing.

BRITISH CLUB SUDOKU

Enjoy a challenge, try these two!
First correct entry to Barry wins!

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

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

INSTRUCTIONS: Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9. Need help? <http://www.sudoku.org.uk>

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We can incorporate fun and games into your event or party, provide hosts and hostesses, event staff, location planners, party layouts, we create any aspect of the party to meet your needs, weddings, balls, parties, and corporate events.

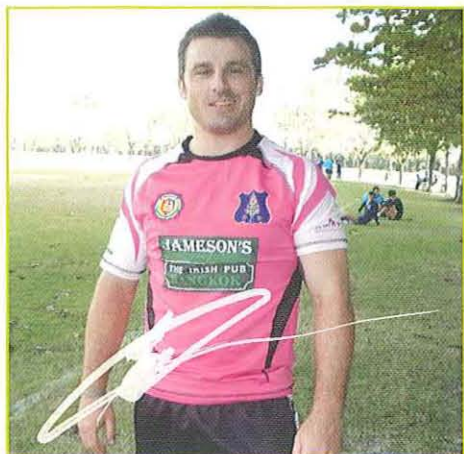
We have a large variety of sound and lighting equipment to suit your needs and budget, no party is too small or big.



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Mr. Turkish 084-552-2430 ,
Email : Uber.Schemers@gmail.com

REED PASSMORE

SPORTS & LEISURE



Welcome to another great issue of *Outpost*. With the financial crisis hitting us all and increasing stress levels, now is the time to "decrease that stress." Exercise releases endorphins that give you a natural high. Endorphins are released during long, continuous workouts, when the level of intensity is between moderate and high, and breathing is difficult. Workouts that are most likely to produce endorphins include boxing, running, swimming, cycling, weight lifting, aerobics, or playing a sport such as soccer, rugby, hockey or tennis. Thankfully the British Club offers all of the above. So get active, stay active and release those endorphins.

In the coming months we have a great line up of events including three heavy hitting features — Fight Night, All-Sections Competition and Amazing Race 2 — be sure to book your places early.

Last month's kid's quiz was easy and hard, those with a keen eye will have spotted the football team names on most of the badges with the exception of two

(badges 2 and 3 from left to right below): Football fanatics may have Googled these to find Boavista from Portugal and the Cambodia national team.



This month, with FIGHT NIGHT looming, the quiz is on the noble art of boxing. Which "worldly" Thai boxer lays claim to being Thailand's greatest ever exponent — and when I say boxer, I mean Queensbury Rules not Muay Thai. Answers to me ASAP, a nice voucher to the first correct entry. I look forward to seeing you round the Club! STOP PRESS — 40 tickets already sold for the FIGHT NIGHT, better hurry!

THE AMAZING RACE 2

THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

AMAZING RACE 2 — 2ND MAY

If you missed the first be sure to join the second. Teams of 2 race (tuk tuk, taxis, BTS or on foot) around Bangkok completing challenging, embarrassing or cultural challenges. Buffet dinner, drinks and great prizes. Be warned, AR2 will be more challenging this time round! This is not a foot race, travel by boat, tuk tuk, MRT, BTS to arrive at your next designation/challenge.

DIARY DATES

FAMILY 4-A-SIDE FOOTBALL — 14TH MARCH



(With 80's theme — "Keegan" perms allowed)
4-a-side football. Must have 2 children under 12 and at least 1 female per team.

ALL SECTIONS SPORTS — MAY 17TH

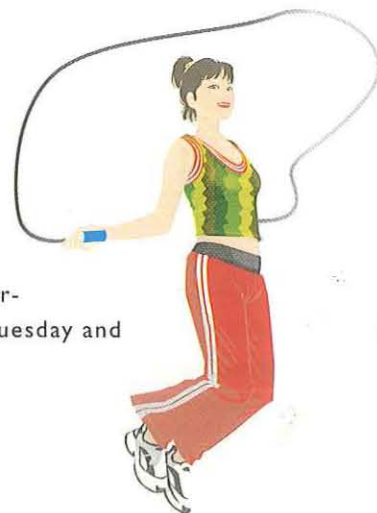
The British Club Bangkok's "Section Vs. Section" sports tournament. Play other sections sports, round robins; compete in mini Olympics and finish with an all sections party.

JUNIOR SWIMMING LESSONS

Junior swimming lessons on a Fridays and Saturdays. These lessons are for children; 1-year old to teenagers.

BOXING LESSONS

Boxing lessons are starting again at the British Club. The lessons are for all members looking to increase general health and fitness. Lessons are THB 400 per session and run during normal school terms, Tuesday and Thursday.



FIGHT NIGHT

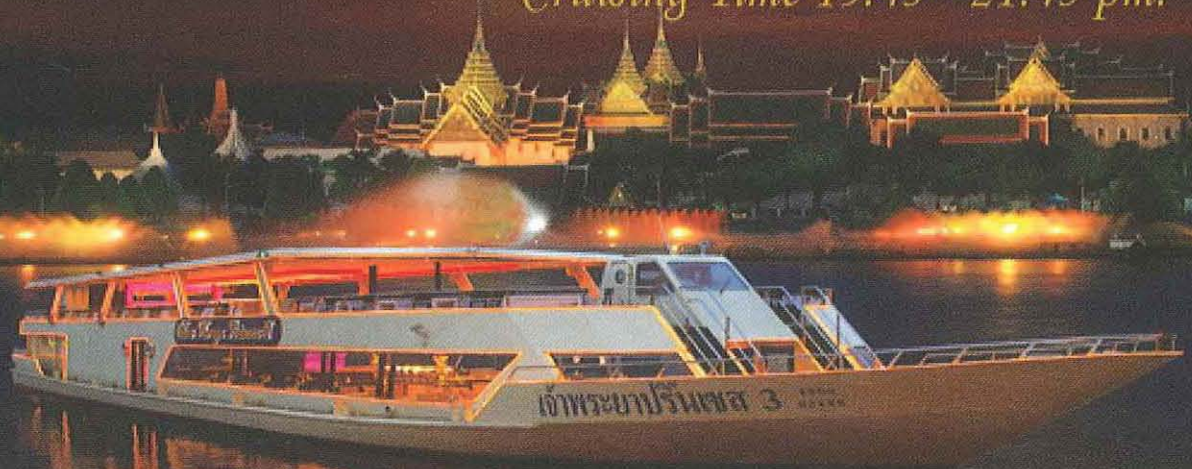
BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

ROUND 1 27 MARCH 2009

A BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK SPECIAL — Open-air fight card on the back lawn.
2 boxing bouts, 4 Muay Thai fights and 2 demonstrations that will knock you out!
3 course dinner, free-flow beer and wine.
27th March 2009, bell rings at 7:30pm
Contact Reed for full details.
ADVANCE BOOKING only - limited seating, hurry!

Chao Phraya Princess

The Dinner Cruise along Chao Phraya River
Cruising Time 19.45 - 21.45 pm.



Reservation call center: 0-2860-3700

www.thaicruise.com

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Squashy Bits

The British Club Bangkok takes on the Chiang Mai Gymkhana Club as the Club's squashies and cricketers make the annual trek north and throw in some tennis for good measure. **JACK DUNFORD** reports...

We have had many wonderful tours to Chiang Mai since our first trip way back in 1982, but the annual Cricket/Squash weekend at the end of January this year was surely one of the best. We had the largest touring party ever, with about 40 members and friends, and this year added tennis to the sporting challenges. There was a palpable air of excitement and camaraderie as soon as folks started to assemble in O'Malley's on Friday night and this just got better as the weekend progressed. So much so, that it was the vocal and passionate support of BCB's very own Charmy Army that lifted the boys from near defeat to win a most remarkable victory on the cricket field. But I am ahead of myself...

LIMBERING UP

It all began sedately enough on Saturday morning, as it tends to do after drinking the odd barrel or two of Erdinger. First up was a cricket match with young Thai cricketers, BCB's contribution to the marvellous efforts being made by the Chiang Mai lads to develop cricket in northern Thailand – but also an opportunity for some useful practice, most of the team not having played since last year, some not since their school days! We're never quite sure to expect and this time we were presented with five 10 or 11 year old girls from Prince Royal School and four only slightly older lads from Doi Saket. The BC squad was split into two, one team under Dale playing with the girls, the other under Vaughan with boys, 12-a-side to give everyone a bash, 25 overs the format on the artificial turf.

The stars undoubtedly were the Thai girls who bowled amazingly good lines and length, in particular a 10 year old leg spinner who was on the spot almost every ball. Dale's team scored 101 for 6 with tour newcomers Andrew Spedding (25*) and Richard Harris (24) impressing with the bat.

Nick White (27*) soon put Vaughan's team ahead of the run rate and Ned (12), Pan (14) and Roger Winter (12*) saw them home comfortably with a couple of overs to spare. There weren't any outstanding performances from the BC fielders other than an extraordinarily cameo by Dale behind the stumps and a remarkable tendency for all them to make sure that catches didn't (appear) to go anywhere near them. But well done lads. Some of the Thai kids had never played in a proper game before, certainly not with an odd assortment of ageing farang, and will remember this for years.

SQUASHY (AND TENNIT) BIT

The cricket was over mid-afternoon and the scene moved on to the tennis and squash courts. Our man in black, Bruce Madge picks up the story:

Well, we took along ten of our finest fearing that some might not even get a game yet at the last minute, the CGC produced an equal number and it was game-on. Marvyn, our stand-in captain, displayed unprecedented, tactical flair by playing Da at number ten and the highly underrated, Bruce Anthony Madge at nine with Nick Mellor at eight and himself at seven. Well, as Marvyn later



1. The Glorious Gymkhana Club
2. Charmy Army
3. James, Dave, Colin: Batting heroes
4. The Dick Wood Trophy
5. The Winning Squashies
6. The Happy Finale
7. Skipper and Manager Soak up the Glory





lauded, this proved to be a moment of 'magical captaincy' as Da lost barely a point winning 3-0 with Nick and Marvyn also triumphing without losing a game.

In contrast, Mr. Madge decided to let his opponent, Mark, take the first game despite being awarded nearly half a dozen strokes. Bruce came back to level 1-1 then fell asleep again to lose the third. Mr. Madge made it difficult for himself in the fourth game by refusing to call lets even when his opponent continually put the ball down the middle of the court and got in the way. But with a packed gallery of anxious BC fans behind him, he eventually set up the decider. Sailing into an 8-2 lead, calls of advice from above grew louder and louder, nerves took hold and he just couldn't put the match away. Mark bravely saved match point after match point to creep back to 8-3, then four, five, six and even to 8-7. The gallery was screaming its frustration and poor Bruce looked as if he might collapse any second from sheer fatigue and pressure, but he hung in to win 9-7 and take the match 3-2. He later commented that it had been the most awkward and mentally draining game of squash he'd ever played (he's writing this stuff!).

As for the others, Colin Hastings, out of retirement and the pub, performed supremely to beat Chris 3-0. Then along came Dr. White, at number four. He treated those in attendance to a display of the most amazing squash with length, width, flair, panache, spirit and utter determination to also win 3-0...an unprecedented demonstration of master squash. Six love to BCB and game over!

Khun Rit played next. Due to a booking error, his flight actually departed Bangkok a day earlier than the others. Not too big a deal one might think. However, this was Rit's first ever flight and he had to board it alone. It was also his first time in Chiang Mai so he spent the Friday touring the whole city on foot while waiting for the others. Maybe it was that first flight experience or all the walking the day before or the fact that his opponent, Paul, was twice as tall as him, but the normally very competitive Rit was beaten quite comprehensively 3-0.

Three matches remained and Mark Sayer, Charles Whitely and Neil Evans playing at three, two and one, respectively, all lost 3-0. Mark had a very plausible reason being that he'd injured two fingers of his playing hand during cricket the day before. He then proceeded to injure them some more as he dived around the court necessitating a visit to a local clinic for treatment right after his game. Charles' opponent, John, was just a considerably more able player so he's excused, yet Mr. Evans, as the number one BCB player, should really have performed much, much better, but didn't and doesn't know why. Needless to say, he won't be invited next year.

"BCB six, CMG four. The victory was all down to Captain Marvel Marvyn and his amazing team tactics. Well done Marvyn and team."

TENNIS

As for the tennis, well this was a new venture. With such a large touring party it was decided to organise some social tennis to give everyone a piece of the action, with a couple of guys from BC's tennis section joining in. CGC put a team of doubles players together and a competition of sorts took place at the same time as the squash. Although no actual, official match results were made available at the time of writing we are reliably informed that the BCB doubles partnerships outperformed their CGC rivals with relative ease. Well done to Raquel, Sally, Fiona, Jum, Chris, Michael and the others. The CGC were great tennis hosts and to mark this inaugural tennis competition, during the evening's festivities, the BCB tennis team was presented with a wooden plaque which was very gratefully received by BCB's star player Raquel. Tennis will surely become an integral part of future tours.

One of the highlights of the Chiang Mai weekends is always the Saturday night barbecue and drinks outside under the ancient rain tree in front of the clubhouse. All were in high spirits this year after a good day's sport and victory on the squash courts and it wasn't long before the great traditions of fuzzy-duck and fuzz-buzz were

in full swing. Each year produces a new star and this year it was our two tennis friends Mike and Chris that set new standards of incredible incompetence ensuring one of the most hilarious sessions of all time. Also deserving honorary mention was Sally Crossley-Smith who perhaps unwisely débuted in fuzzy-duck in front of her children who were whisked off to bed in state of shock after hearing Mummy repeatedly utter the inverted version ducky-fuzz. It was happy bunch of BC bunnies that hit their beds that night in great anticipation of the big match next day.

DICK WOOD TROPHY

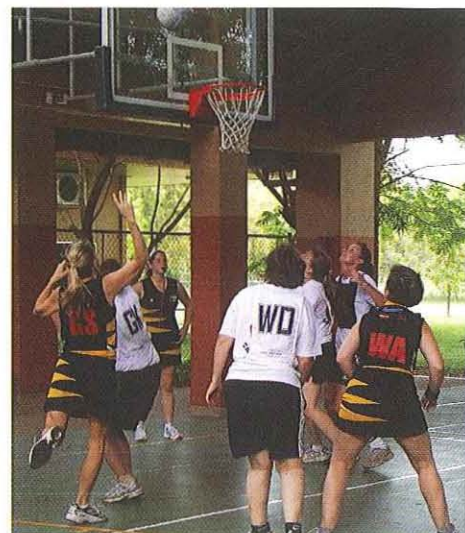
The Dick Wood Trophy is serious stuff, a 35-over match for men! It was agreed to play on a slightly suspect looking turf track which we were assured would play "slow but true". Slightly suspicious, BC was happy to see CMGC bat first and it was soon clear that whilst slow, the wicket wasn't necessarily true. Nick White was able to open the bowling with his traditional 9-slips field and GMGC were soon in trouble when their star bat Wani, who had scored 100 off 60 balls in a league match the day before, hit across the line and was bowled by Andrew Spedding. Nick and Andrew were both bowling well and Duncan McCarthur was also soon making his presence felt as CMGC progressed steadily to 50 for 2 at the first drinks break after 12 overs. BC's second string bowlers did a reasonable job (Colin Hastings 1 for 17, Jack Dunford 1 for 16 both off 4 overs) but on 108 for 4 at the second break after 24 overs, the GC were still in a position to set a big total. Captain Vaughan McClear played the final overs brilliantly however, rotating the final overs left from Nick (0 for 9 off 9 overs), Andrew (1 for 16) and Duncan (4 for 11), putting so much pressure on the CM batsmen that they could only squeeze 21 runs off the last 11 overs finishing on 129 for 8. This was a great performance from the BC. The fielding was good with a couple of sharp run outs. We looked like, well...cricketers!

Plan A was simple, well-tried and tested. At least one of our four star batsmen would score 40 not out before retiring, ready to come back to finish the game off if needed. With years of experience behind them, they had all seen the way the pitch was playing and knew all they had to do was to keep their heads down, play straight and not do anything silly. Hmm...well our four star batsmen Nick (11), Dale (11) Andrew (4) and Vaughan (15) did manage to score 40...between them, but at 62 for 6 after 21 overs, Plan A wasn't quite working. Plan B? Well we didn't really have one although young Colin Hastings gave a hint of what might be possible with a bright little knock of 19, his best in at least a quarter of a century. Yet when he was out to a sharp catch at 89 for 7, 41 were still needed off 38 balls, and surely the game was over.

Ah the joys of cricket! I don't think it ever occurred to James-Crossley Smith and David Curmi that they couldn't win this but it was a while before anyone else in the ground believed it. Keeping it simple they played the innings of their lives. They "nurdled" the ball around, scampered amazing singles, and gradually unnerved the GM boys who until now thought they had it in the bag. BC's Charmy Army began to sense something special as the target reduced to 27 off 30 balls. CM were bowling down the leg side without being called, but with a little bit of encouragement from the crowd, the umpires at last began to stretch their arms and with every wide and run scored there was a roar of approval. The noise and excitement lifted James (26*) and Dave (18*) over the line and, with 2 balls to spare, with 130 for 7, BC had won the Dick Wood Cup by 3 wickets...the first time since 2003. The crowd went wild, the pitch was invaded...and a chuckle was heard from over the hedge in the Foreign Cemetery where Dick spends his time these days.

THE SPOILS

Needless to say, the after-match celebrations were wild and enthusiastic. The Chiang Mai boys were gracious in defeat. This was cricket played in its best traditions and this was a weekend made special by a wonderful touring party, everyone of whom joined in the spirit, got part of action and will remember it for a long, long time. Thank you, every one of you! And thank you Gymkhana Club for your usual fantastic hospitality, sportsmanship and, of course, the use of your stunningly beautiful grounds. We'll be back!



NETBALL

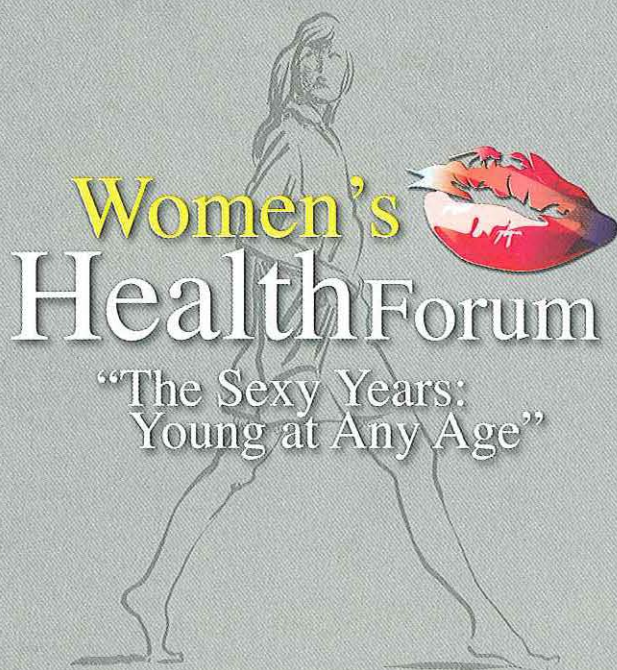
The British Club Bangkok are now official sponsors of the Bangkok Netball League (BNL) 2009.

The BNL was established in 1995 and over the years has grown in size catering primarily for expat women in Bangkok. The league provides challenging sporting competition and a fantastic social setting for those who enjoy a post match beer or two.

The popular and well supported group is made up of a myriad of nationalities, some of whom grew up with netball; others are less familiar. This year we have over 150 registered players and we are continually recruiting and retaining players from this transient community. Over the past few years sponsorship money received by the BNL has been put towards:

- Sponsoring the Thai National team
- Providing professional netball coaching for new and existing players as well as youth training
- Court venue costs
- International tournament costs
- Annual Awards night

As the British Club now has the facilities available to host a Netball tournament we are busy planning some exciting events for the near future. As many of our players are members of the British Club, we are only too pleased to show off our new facilities to our friends and colleagues in the hope of attracting new members to our club! It doesn't matter what level of experience you have, if you are interested in joining the league please contact us at bangkoknetball@gmail.com or see www.bangkoknetball.com



Women's Health Forum

"The Sexy Years:
Young at Any Age"

Tuesday, March 17, 10 a.m. – Noon

Bumrungrad International, 12th Floor Conference Room

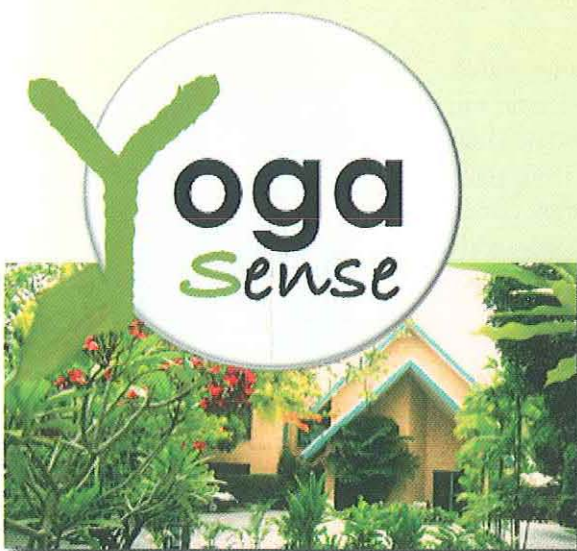
Join Dr. Somboon as he gives valuable tips on keeping yourself looking and feeling your best!

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

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

This is a complimentary seminar presented in English. It is open to all community organizations and the general public.

Call to reserve your seat at 02 667 1320 or email catherine@bumrungrad.com. Book your seat early to avoid disappointment.



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- Students of all levels, beginners are welcome

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Tel. 0818468018



About Sara:

- Spanish nationality
- Trained in Hong Kong
- Yoga Alliance Certified

Her teaching is always gentle and mindful, with clear focus on correct alignment.

She creates a safe, friendly environment and gives every student the encouragement they need to grow their practice, at their own pace.

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Parking available
For directions to DC one, please call DC one reception at 0240 2800

BRITISH CLUB RUGBY



Two months gone, two trophies....let's hope the rest of the year is this good!

MORCAR McCONNELL on a great start to the year for the BCB Rugby Team

JANUARY BEGAN with the *Commercial Navy Tens*. With two BCB teams entered and for a change no players missing, we went there with very high hopes. Drawn in the same group as each other, playing firsts vs. seconds was going to be very interesting.

The seconds went 3 tries up in the first half – was this going to be a massive upset? Was reality dawning on the older players?? It took Wai – our oldest and longest serving player – to give us all a good kicking before waking up and starting to play, scoring and converting in injury time to win 19-17.

The seconds went on to win the plate, easily beating Bangmod University 21-5. Again, the firsts struggled going 10-0 down at half time to a surprisingly good Ubon University team. Once again a good kicking from Wai got the players fired up. 10-5 down, we were given a penalty on our own 22, and with no time left we had to run. Max took a quick tap and threw an outrageous 5-man miss pass that found X free and open. 60 meters to go, X took off on a winding run, dodging and ducking tackles finally being brought down 10 meters from the try line. Wai cleared out the ruck, our scrum half *Pubes* darted

down the blind side slipped a tackle and chipped kicked into the corner for the chasing Max to touch down.

10-10 and tournament rules stated no extra time, in the event of a tie the first try scorer would win. Max, needing to get the conversion to win from right on the touch line, pulled a rabbit out of the hat, kicking and hoping almost with his eyes shut! The ball sailed through the posts, 12-10 and a nice shiny cup.

ON TO FEBRUARY and our own Tens at Thonburi University; 14 teams all together including 4 ladies teams. The tournament kicked off at 10am and already it was too hot to breath. Six more hours of play to go! Once again



Player of the Tournament, British Club's inspirational K. Wai.



More silverware for BCB Rugby that will look good in the Churchill Bar.

drawn against our own seconds, with last month's close game still fresh in the memory. No one wanted the same kicking from Wai! An easy win and onto the Final of the Cup. The seconds made it to the Bowl Final losing to a very strong East Asia University team with the last play of the game 5-7.

The Cup final was against the Bangkok Japanese who had looked good throughout the day, but a lack of players took its toll as they were too tired to match our fresher legs. BCB ran out winners 17-5 and claimed our second trophy of the year.



BRITISH CLUB GOLF

Another Month in the Swing for our Golfers...

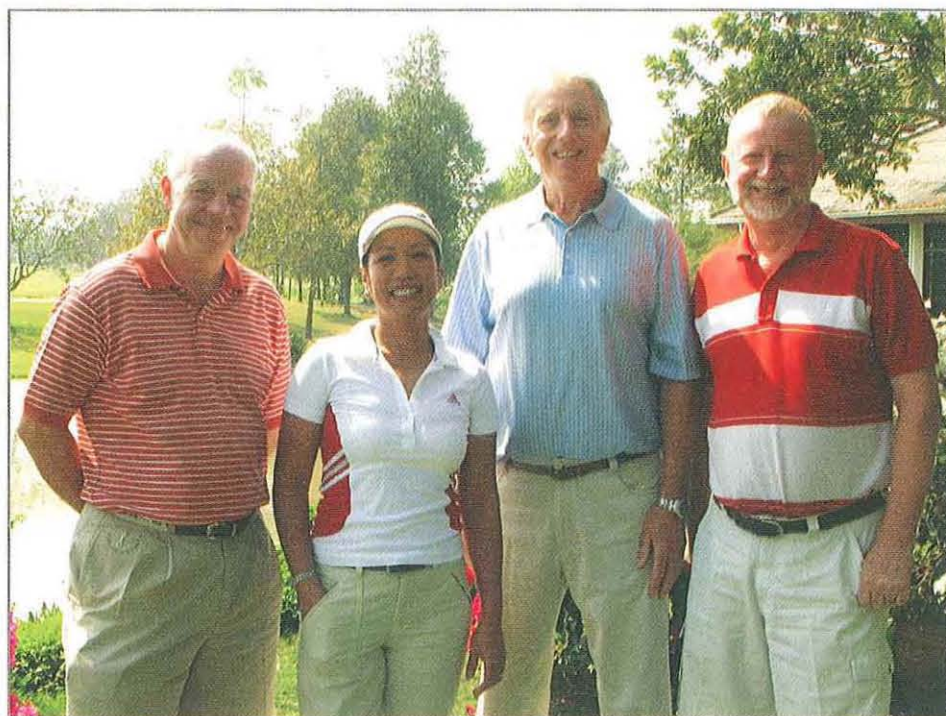
Jenny Harries

Golf Section

The beginning of January was the time for our annual three clubs and a putter competition. This is probably to enable those people who have celebrated too much over the new year to avoid having to make too many decisions when deciding which club to use. The competition was played at Bangpakong Riverside and the result was very close, with Gordon Milne winning on count back from Captain Maureen Gibson. The scores were pretty good which just shows that usually we can play pretty well with fewer clubs in our bag.

HOLE IN ONE

Then, the following week, Captain Maureen, playing in the stableford at Bangkok Golf scored her first hole in one on the 5th hole which is a 135 yard par 3. Usually the pin is pretty well guarded by the huge bunker in front and a hole in one here is a great achievement. Well done Maureen!



Matchplay finalists, Brian, Rose, Barry and Peter.

with one hole left to play. Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the runners up.

MONTHLY MEDAL

The monthly medals were won by Tracy Birchall for A Flight and Bob Randle for B flight and Brian duly presented them with their trophies.



Brian Brook presents monthly medal trophies to winners Tracy Birchall (A Flight) and Bob Randle (B Flight).



SEARA MATCHPLAY

Well, the finals for the cup and the plate in the matchplay competition were played mid-January. Brian Brook and Barry Ashman had a very close game with the advantage seesawing first one way and then the other. By the 16th hole, Brian was two up but Barry hung on in there and won the last two holes, thereby squaring the match. As a follow-on playoff is not feasible at the courses here the two rivals then had to fix a day for a rematch, which they played two weeks later at Lam Lukka where Barry finally prevailed by winning 4 and 2.

The plate competition, which is contested between those people who were knocked out in the first round, also reached its final round between Peter Bond and Rosemarie Milne. Peter started off strongly and then Rosemarie caught up. However Peter managed to pull ahead again and won by 3

JOIN US

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

Email: bcs2002@yahoo.co.uk

Phone: Captain, Maureen Gibson — Mobile: 089 017 2254



ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SERIES



MEN'S DOUBLES Championship

Saturday 21st March 2009

This event is the first in the BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SERIES and will be run as a one-day tournament open to all current British Club Male Members.

The aim of the event is to attract all players who wish to compete in the annual club doubles to an event that will be played in one day. Socially, we hope to be able to encourage players plus family/friends to enjoy the games and join in a buffet reception/prize giving afterwards.

If you would like to enter the event please use either the sign up sheets at the main club reception or in the fitness room or email sports manager Reed Passmore: reed.passmore@britishclubbangkok.org

The closing date for entries will be Sunday 15th March.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

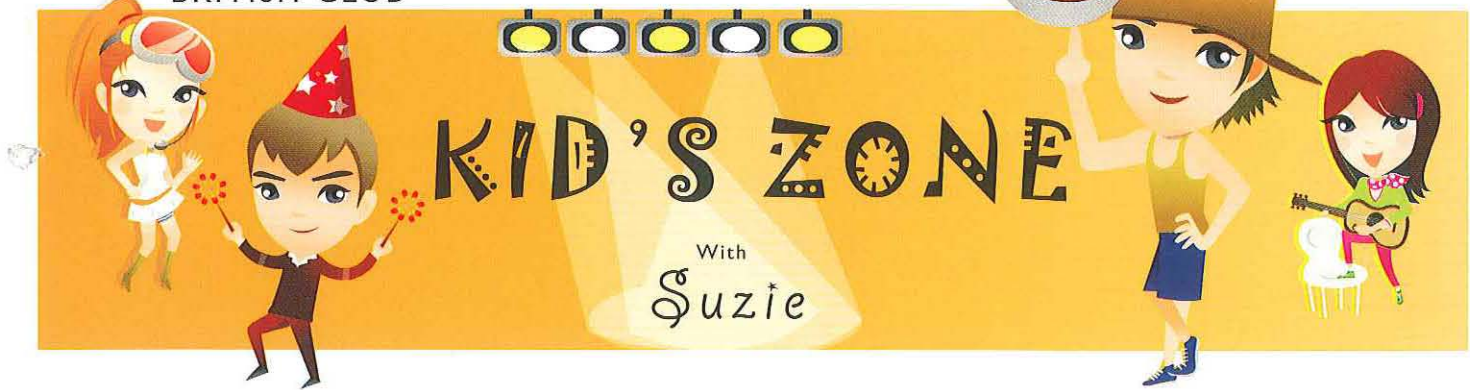
The event will start at 3pm (depending on numbers) and played to a conclusion.

All pairs will be placed into groups of 4 or 5 (dependant on numbers) and shall play a one set match against each other pair.

Following the group play there will be a knockout stage that will be played as a pro set — where possible all pairs will feed into the knockout stage into sections depending on where they finish in the group stages. I hope to offer all pairs a minimum of 4 matches each. The pairs who finish 1st in their group will be competing for the Men's doubles Club Championship title.



BRITISH CLUB



In this month's Kid's Zone, Khun Suzie takes a look at some environmentally friendly arts & crafts, Can-Do Robots and a Jet Boat that can be made from "post-consumer content" or "rubbish" in everyday speak!

RECYCLABLE CRAFTS

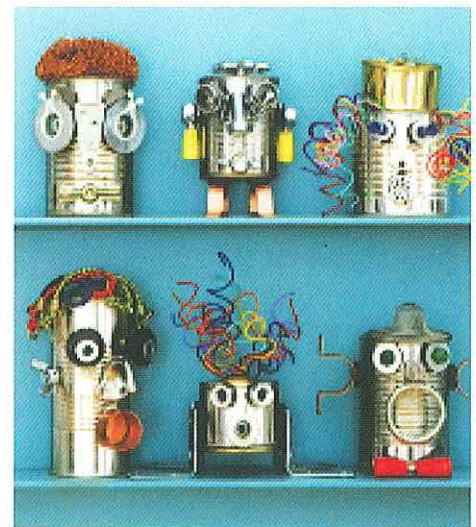
CAN-DO ROBOTS

These friendly robots are more than just good-looking; magnets hold their features in place, making the 'bots the metallic equivalent of a Mr. Potato Head.

- Craft Materials:
- Tin can
- Electrical tape (optional)
- Hardware and various recyclables such as bottle caps, keys, etc.
- Hot-glue gun
- Strong disk magnets

METHOD

1. Open a tin can with a safety can opener so there are no sharp edges. (If you only have a regular opener, line the inside of the can's rim with electrical tape.)
2. Empty, wash, and dry the can.
3. For facial features, arms, propulsion devices, and communication arrays, look for items around the house and at the hardware store. We used bolts, brackets, hinges, keys, wing nuts, switches, bottle caps, washers, knobs, and more.
4. Hot-glue the items to strong disk magnets.



JET BOAT

Kids will love being the captain of this balloon-powered jet boat — perfect for racing in pools, ponds and bathtubs.

1. Thread the nut on the plastic pipe elbow. Then cut a hole in the bottom of one of the trays and push through the elbow's non-threaded end.
2. Stretch the balloon over the threaded end. Next, secure the elbow underneath the tray with the rubber band, wrapping it around several times.
3. Cut a rudder from the other tray, and insert it through a slit cut in the stern of the boat.

TIPS

To operate the vessel, inflate the balloon by blowing into the elbow. Block the end of the pipe with your finger as you set the boat in the water, then release it and watch the boat zip away.



SCHOOL JOKES

Why were you late?

Sorry, teacher, I overslept.

You mean you need to sleep at home too!

Teacher: Class, we will have only half a day of school this morning.

Class: Hooray

Teacher: We will have the other half this afternoon!

Playing truant from school is like a credit card

Fun now, pay later!

Laugh and the class laughs with you.

But you get detention alone!

Mother: Does your teacher like you?

Son: Like me, she loves me. Look at all those X's on my test paper!

Why I don't have my homework...

"I lost it fighting this kid who said you weren't the best teacher in the school"

"I didn't do it because I didn't want to add to your already heavy workload"

"I didn't do it, because I didn't want the other kids in the class to look bad"

CLUB DIRECTORY

Contact Information, Regular Events and Selected Highlights

CLUB MANAGEMENT

General Manager

Barry Osborne
gm@britishclubbangkok.org

Deputy General Manager

Premrudee Tanyaluck
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MEMBER ACTIVITIES

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St. George's

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St. Patrick's

Desmond Kimmel
deskimmel@yahoo.com

SERVICE HOURS

Reception: 8am–10pm
Churchill Bar: 10am–11pm
The Verandah: 11am–10pm
Poolside Bar: 7am–10pm
Fitness Centre:
Mon–Fri — 6am–10pm
Sat–Sun — 6am–9pm

CONTACTS

Reception
Tel: 02 234 0247
Fax: 02 235 1560
www.britishclubbangkok.org

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

March 17th

Green Food Buffet to celebrate St Patrick's Day. The buffet will be available in the Verandah (lunch and dinner). Promotions on Guinness, Jameson's whiskey and Irish Coffee.

April 4–5th

Chokchai Farm Visit — Weekend of back to nature activities, fun for all the family.

Sunday April 12th

Easter Sunday Special — Easter brunch in the Verandah; a "Super Sunday" carvery with special gifts for kids. Easter picnic, hot cross buns, plus BRITSOCK 5!

REGULAR EVENTS

Tuesday

CHURCHILL BAR

Spoofing @ 8:30pm–late

Wednesday

THE VERANDAH

Wednesday Carvery — Choose from soup, two roasts Carvery with potatoes & Vegetables: Bt 275 (with salad Baht 30 extra). Available from noon–2pm and 6pm–10pm

CHURCHILL BAR

Prestige Wines Accumulator @ 7–8pm
Any member could win from Bt. 5,000 to Bt.25,000 — prizes increases each week.
Bottle Draw @ 7:30pm
A member present in the Bar will win a bottle of whisky, tequila, vodka or gin.

Friday

THE VERANDAH

The Friday "Themed Buffet."
Lunch & Dinner.

Sunday

THE VERANDAH

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

SILOM ROOM

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

SURIWONGSE ROOM

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



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 17th March 2009, 7:00 pm

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

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

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

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

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER NOMINATIONS

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

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

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

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



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Choose Health



BNH HOSPITAL (Sathorn - Convent) 9/1 Convent Rd., Silom, Bangkok 10500 Tel. 02-686-2700 Fax. 02-632-0578-9
www.BNHhospital.com E-mail: info@BNHhospital.com