



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

OUTPOST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

Q.9 In January of what year did Vietnamese-led rebel forces seize the capital, Phnom Penh, forcing Pol Pot and many of his soldiers to retreat into the



NOW SHOWING

Grand Prix racing

SPOTLIGHT

BNC's Let's Knit for the Needy

SPORTS

Hash House Harriers

CLUB FEATURE

BCT's Pinocchio at the Club

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OUTPOST

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FRONT COVER

The British Club Quiz is held the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Bangkok's premier Quizmaster, Rodney Bain, will be asking four rounds of tantalizing questions. Get a team of friends to come along and join in the fun, or just pop along to see if we can fit you in!

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Jonathan Truslow
Chairman - General
Committee 2009/2010

Well, I can hardly believe that it's March and time for the AGM already. That means I have served a full year as Chairman of the GC, a year that I have found to be both challenging and rewarding. The British Club is a unique institution with a long and distinguished history, and it is a great privilege to have been chosen to serve as Chairman of the GC and be a part of extending that history. I have learnt a great deal during the past year, experienced some highs and lows and emerged with an increased love of the Club, a deep appreciation of the work carried out by the staff and management and a confidence that the Club will remain a cornerstone of social life in Bangkok for many years to come.

The AGM will be held on 23rd March and will be immediately preceded by an EGM to request a sign-off from membership on Phase 1 of the Club's development plan. This may seem a rather unusual arrangement, but the original motion required the completion of Phase 1 "to be evidenced by an EGM called expressly for that purpose". Rather than call members out on two separate nights (although Barry tells me this would be good for bar sales!), we will run the two meetings consecutively on the same night. Please refer to my article in the December edition of Outpost for a full discussion of the points concerning this members' development motion.

I would like to make the traditional twofold plea to members: firstly, to attend the meetings and secondly, to consider standing for the GC.

Club General Meetings are the prime opportunity for members to have input to the running of the Club — by expressing their views, voting on key issues and electing the GC — so your attendance at and participation in both meetings will help to ensure a vibrant and pluralistic Club. All members eligible to vote should have received calling papers for both meetings shortly, please contact the Club if you do not receive yours.

The following section of the Club's Constitution defines the role and composition of the General Committee: "The Club is under the control of its Ordinary and Country Members, who shall, before the end of March each year, elect by ballot at the Annual General Meeting a General Committee of not less than eight and not more than ten from amongst the Ordinary Members to manage the property and affairs of the Club."

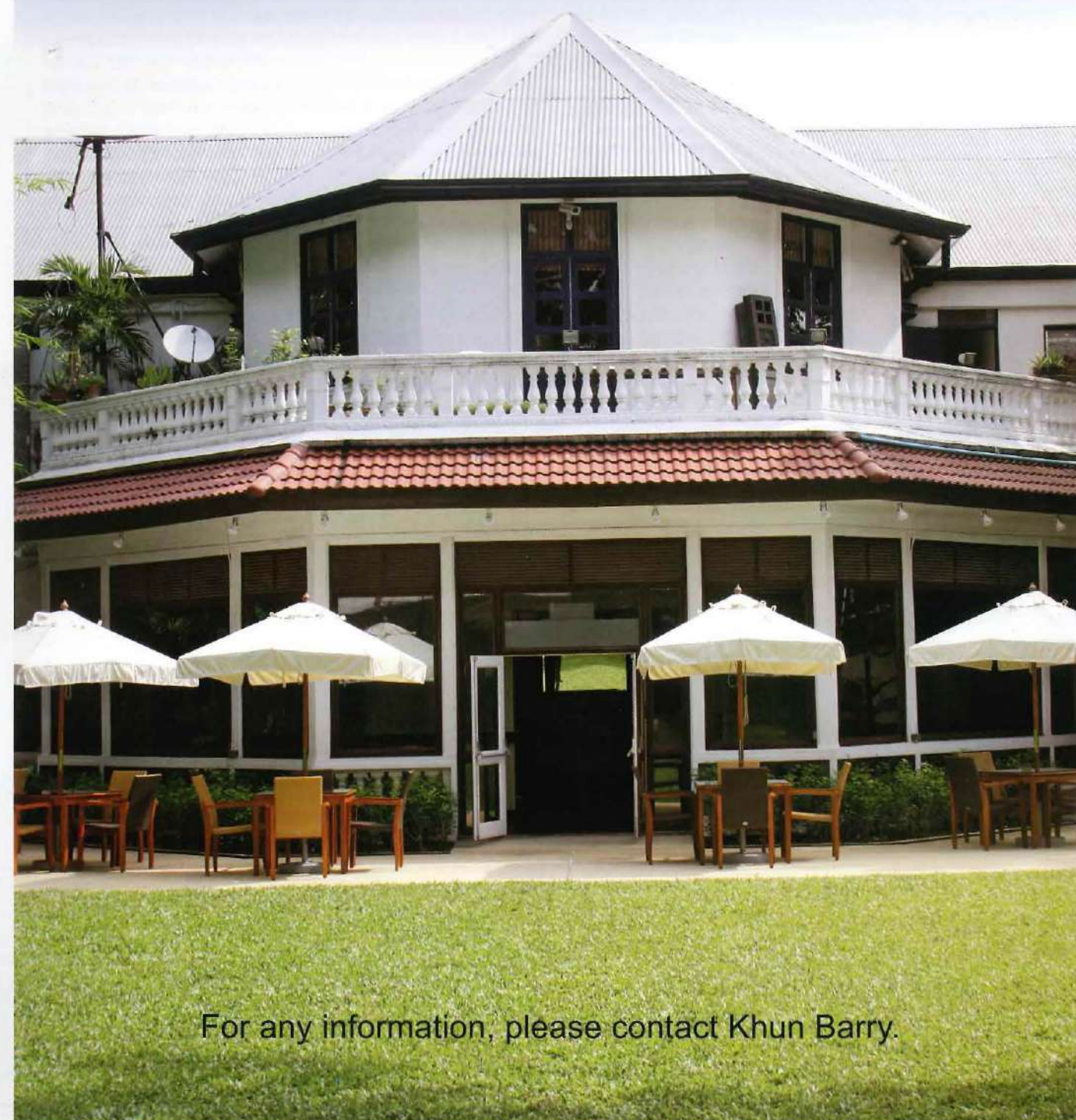
Operating without a CEO, the GC has borne a heavy workload this year, much of it concerning the detailed day-to-day operations of the Club. With a new CEO expected to be in place at about the time of the AGM, we would expect the GC's work to shift more towards that of a board of directors in a limited company; setting long term goals, approving and monitoring operating plans and budgets and delegating more of the daily management of the Club to the management team. Marketing, brand management, communications, policy development and planning are areas I expect the GC will need to focus on in 2010 and would urge members with skills and experience in these areas to consider standing for the GC this year. We will also be looking for someone with financial or accounting skills to take on the role of Treasurer, as Dale Lamb, our current treasurer, will stand down after four years of service on the GC.

I hope to see you at the EGM/AGM.

AGM

Annual General Meeting—23rd March 2010

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Club at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 23rd March 2010, in the Suriwongse Room. The AGM will be preceded by an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at 6.30pm to request a sign-off from Membership on Phase 1 of the Club's development plan.



For any information, please contact Khun Barry.

HOUSE & GROUNDS

The monthly report on Maintenance and Development



I approached Saturday night, 6th February, with more than a little anxiety. I had arranged for the new granite bar counter to be installed in the Churchill Bar after normal closing time at 11pm. I was quickly informed of my first error by some friends while having lunch with them on Saturday. The word was that they intended to watch the rugby until 2am in the morning, and any interruption to their enjoyment could be fatal for me. Whilst I make every effort to avoid disruption to the Members' recreational activities, I do sometimes get it wrong. Anyway, I decided to go ahead with the work but be present to try to avoid any engagement of hostilities. My other worry was the very likely possibility that my friends would not appreciate the choice of material they would be expected to look at for the next few years.

I am, therefore, highly relieved to report that the whole operation went like clockwork, and no blood was spilt. On Sunday, I was even allowed to join some of the Balut regulars and play a couple of rounds on the new countertop without receiving any negative comments. In fact, I think the mood was reasonably friendly. I would not expect some of our choices to appeal to everyone, but we do try to please the majority. The two couches will be reupholstered with a good quality leather over the next few weeks, and this will complete our improvements in the Churchill Bar.

We have just finished extensive repair work in the reception area of the clubhouse. Termite damage in this location was serious, and we were left with little choice other than to rebuild the wall behind the reception desk. Over the next week or so, we will be replacing the notice boards in the corridor. These have also been providing the termites with sustenance at our considerable expense.

The Tennis Court subcommittee has now completed a detailed review of the different options for rectification of the tennis court surface. A firm proposal will be submitted shortly to the General Committee for their approval. The proposal includes the engagement of a tennis court specialist who would supervise the whole operation, which will involve the laying of an asphalt base over the concrete slabs.

We are still considering the alternative construction methods for replacement of the fence between the Silom Sala and the tennis courts. The Tennis Section has indicated that they want maximum visibility for Members who are watching the tennis players while sitting in the Silom Sala. Finding a good quality mesh that does not restrict visibility has not been easy, but we think we may now have found something suitable.

We have acted on some of the Members' feedback on the Men's Changing Room by making some minor improvements.

A fly/mosquito screen has been added to the louvres in the shower area, and we have changed one of the floor drains to see if we can achieve an improved drainage flow from the shower cubicle. If this works, we will change the drains in the other five cubicles. Other items are less important, but we are still aware that the matter of hanging space is a significant shortcoming and must be sorted out.

Drawings have recently been completed for the Ladies' Changing Room, which will now be refurbished in a couple of months time to a similar design as the Men's Changing Room. At the same time, the entrance doors to both changing rooms will probably be replaced with two-metre height doors to accommodate some of our taller Members who have been hitting their heads on the unusually low existing doors.

Shortly, we will be preparing drawings for refurbishment of the Gymnasium and toilets.

The area between the tennis courts and Suriwongse Road has now been cleared of rubbish and debris, and we are currently working on proposals for the building of a workshop and storage facility in between the trees. In doing this, we will be aiming to improve the paving and landscaping in this rather forgotten and neglected corner of the grounds. A maintenance contract has just been signed with the landscaping contractor that carried out the work on the back lawn development. We will, therefore, be able to tap into their expertise to see where we can generally make improvements with the objective of enhancing the lawns and planted areas wherever possible.

As you probably know, the electrical systems now meet UK standards, though we still have not completed the repair and replacement of all the defective electrical fittings, such as light switches and socket outlets. We have now employed an electrician to assist with this task and carry out repairs when required. I can assure Members that even if a fitting looks unsafe, the circuit is protected with a modern circuit breaker that will instantly disconnect the electrical supply in the case of a problem.

We made a commitment to Members to bring the Club up to British Standards wherever possible, and to this end, we will soon be reviewing the fire systems to evaluate the scope of work required to improve all items falling under the appropriate British Building Regulation requirements – e.g., fire alarms, fire fighting equipment, means of escape, exit lights and signage, emergency lights, exit doors, etc.

All for now,
John Boisclair
Development & Facility Manager

BRITISH CLUB PENSIONERS

By John Boisclair

As well as being your Development & Facility Manager, I am also one of the many Club Members who are British pensioners. I am writing this article to draw attention to a serious injustice and publicise the fact that strenuous efforts are being made on our behalf to correct a situation that is unfair and has no sensible basis.

Because we have decided to spend our retired years in Thailand, our UK state pensions remain frozen at the same amount as when we first received them whilst living here. This totally iniquitous situation is being challenged by one of the Commonwealth organisations that represent a large number of British Pensioners living overseas, the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners (CABP). Whilst the CABP, representing 155,450 'frozen' pensioners, has seized the initiative and is the organisation that is actually fighting the case through the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, the Australian and South African organizations are providing them with very positive financial and physical support.

These are the facts:

- There are 12 million UK state pensioners, all of who contributed similarly to the pension scheme via compulsory National Insurance Contributions.

- Of the 12 million, just over 1 million live outside the UK.
- Half of the expatriate pensioners receive the same annual cost-of-living increases as those still living in the UK, while the other half do not – their pensions are frozen simply because of where they have chosen to live in retirement.
- Commonwealth nations and British overseas territories are home to 98 per cent of 'frozen' pensioners. Other countries, including Thailand, are home to the rest.
- The cost to the UK government to index all frozen pensions? 480 million British pounds – less than 1 per cent of the National Insurance budget.
- The savings to the UK government created by pensioners with frozen pensions living abroad? Almost 4 billion pounds in health, care and other age related costs.

Some of the Club Members already subscribe to the CABP in order to assist with their legal representation and to receive regular updates in the quarterly magazine Justice.

Those of you who are not already aware of the CABP and would like to learn more can log onto the website at www.BritishPensions.com. Alternatively, I will be very pleased to provide details if you contact me at the Club or at my email address: JohnBoisclair@britishclubbangkok.org.



Royal Varuna Yacht Club

In a quiet cove, just two hours drive from Bangkok, our members enjoy some of the best dinghy sailing in the world. Join a race, sail to nearby islands, have lunch on a beach or relax by the pool. The Club has great restaurant and bar facilities that are open seven days a week. Enjoy good company within secure grounds and clubhouse. New on-site accommodation now available. Group or individual training for all age groups is organized. Especially popular are weekly sessions for children learning to sail Optimists. There are Hobie 16s, Lasers and Optimists for hire.

Visit our website www.varuna.org for more information and contact details. We will be happy to organise a visit so you can experience the flavour of the Club facilities and the sport of sailing.

www.varuna.org

BAZZA'S BANTER

Dear Members,

We have a whole host of things arranged for you over the next few months.

On 17th March, we celebrate St Patrick's Day once again with Khun Laak's Green Food Buffet. Yes, as Ireland is also known as the Emerald Isle, then all dishes will be a shade of green, and we will also have a promotion on Guinness, Irish coffee and Jameson Irish whiskey. I am also trying to arrange some live music. Also in March, we are lucky enough to host the BCT's latest production of 'Pinocchio'. This is a wonderful show for the little ones and the whole family. Before and after the shows, there will be a range of crafts and activities for the kids on the front lawn of the Club, and we will also have a beer garden and food stalls. Show dates are 13th, 14th, 20th and 21st March. Tickets are limited, so book now to avoid disappointment.

Also in March, we are off to Muang Thong Thani to see the one and only Tom Jones in concert (amazingly, he is still alive!). Once again, we have booked the coach and a police escort. On board, we will also be selling beverages to get us in the party mood (beverages are sold on consumption and charged to Members' accounts). Tickets are selling fast, so book now to avoid disappointment – tickets cost 3,500 baht or 5,000 baht each. See elsewhere in Outpost for further details.

Later in March, we are also off to see the excellent family show Disney on Ice. This year's theme is Disneyland adventures and features all the Disney favourites. We are off to see the only showing with an English soundtrack. Tickets cost 1,300 baht each (please note that the price of tickets is the same for adults and children – this is the policy of the organisers and not the Club). The coach leaves from the Club at 9.30am, and the show begins at 11am. Again, see elsewhere in Outpost for more details.

On Friday, 19th March, we have a real treat in store for our Members. We will be hosting a night with Ken Hom, one of the original celebrity chefs well known from British television. Ken and his team are creating a beautiful dinner menu for us with



our Club chefs here in the Club kitchens. Ken will also give a dinner talk on his career. The evening will begin with canapés and pre-dinner drinks. This amazing evening costs just 1,000 baht per head. An event definitely not to be missed!

At the end of March, we will be selling a range of Easter goodies at the cake counter at poolside and at the Neilson Hays coffee shop. We will also start selling the Club's very own secret recipe hot cross buns, available in all outlets at 45 baht each. This year, we are also going to be making chocolate hot cross buns for the first time at a cost of 50 baht each. If you wish to purchase bulk orders of Easter goodies or hot cross buns, please contact Khun Somboon.

Looking further ahead, on Sunday, 4th April, we will be celebrating Easter at the Club. In the Verandah, we will have an Easter Sunday brunch, which will be a bigger version of the regular Sunday carvery. Every child will receive a complimentary soft drink and an Easter chocolate goodie.

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 an egg hunt, Susie's crafts and a picnic lunch.

Last month, we held our first jazz-in-the-park concert on the beautiful back lawn of the Club. The event was free to members and was a great success with over 80 members enjoying a relaxing afternoon with light jazz, strawberries and cream and Pimms. Somboon and his team did a great job decorating the back lawn and arranging seating with casual sofas and more formal dining. The event proved very popular, so keep your eyes peeled for more events like these planned for the near future.

Well, that's about it for another month.

Regards,
Baz

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah

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

Neilson Hays Coffee Shop 9am - 6pm (Tues.-Sun.)

Churchill Bar

10am - 11pm

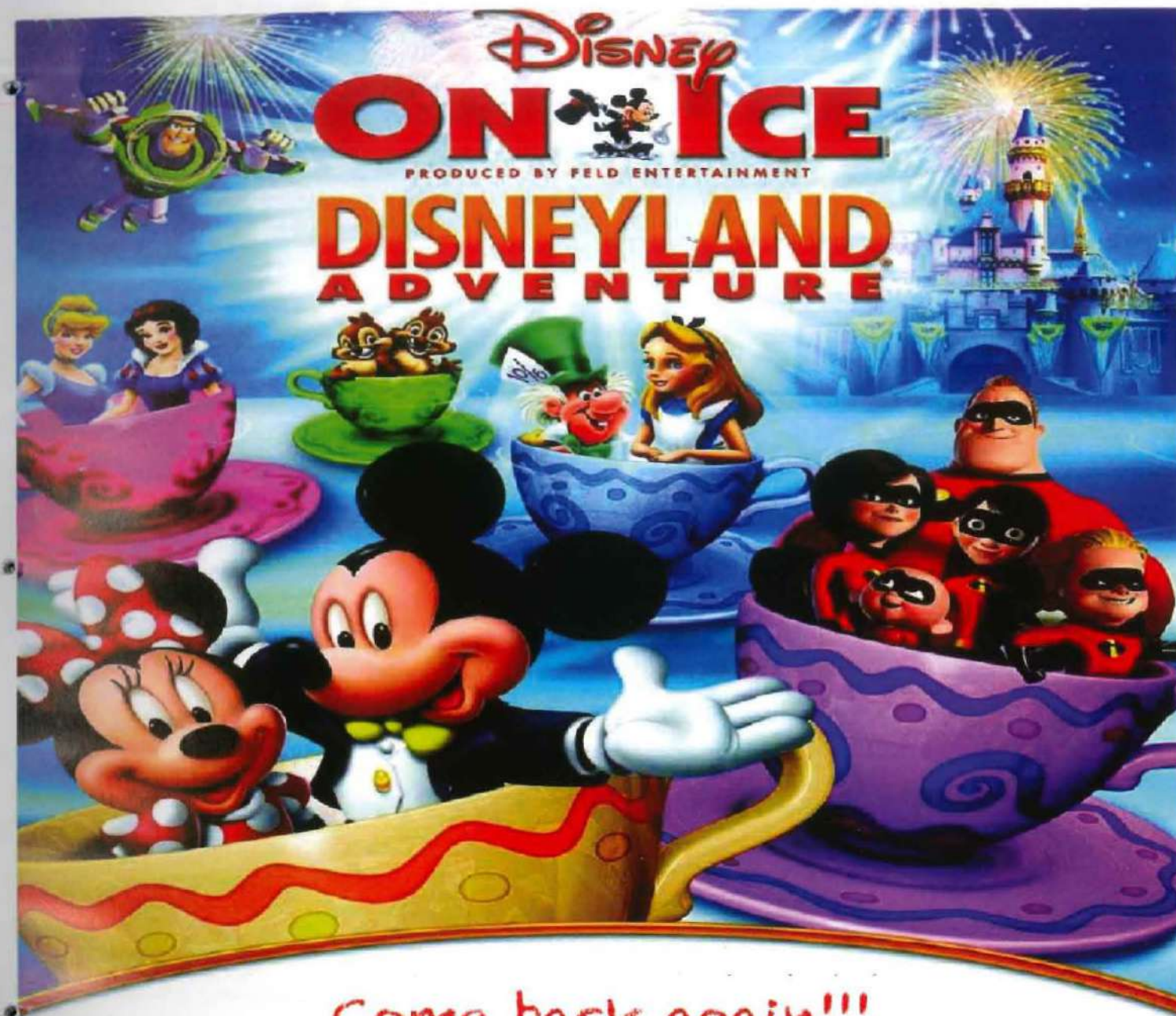
Poolside Bar

7am - 10pm
Last food orders - 9.30pm

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

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

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



Come back again!!!
Disney on Ice, Disneyland Adventure

Saturday, 27th March 2010

Starts at 11.00 am.

Transportation leaves at 9.30 am.

Impact Arena Muang Thong Thani

English soundtrack

THB 1,300 per person

For more enquiry, please contact club reception
or visit www.britishclubbangkok.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 2nd

Tetley Smooth Flow Bar Quiz

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 19th

Dinner with Celebrity Chef Ken Hom

We have a great night lined up for our Members. On Friday, 19th of March, world-famous chef Ken Hom will be visiting the Club. Ken is a well-known celebrity chef in the UK, and unlike most celebrity chefs, he really can cook. Ken and his brigade of chefs will create a fantastic meal for us here at the Club along with Khun Laak and her team. Ken recently opened his restaurant here in Bangkok, and the food is outstanding. The evening begins with canapés and a glass of wine or beer, followed by dinner with Ken in the Suriwongse Room. After dinner, Ken will keep us entertained with a talk on his career and with questions from members encouraged. There are also some fantastic weekend breaks to be won at

the Bandara resorts, which are associated with Ken Hom. The cost of the evening is just 1,000 baht per head; cost excludes drinks except those during cocktail reception. Numbers are limited, so please book now to avoid disappointment. Sign up at Clubhouse reception or send a fax or email to the Club. For more information, please contact Khun Somboon or Barry.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st

Tom Jones Live In Concert

Only 10 tickets left to see this legendary performer in concert at Impact Arena. Tickets cost 5000 baht in Zone A1 and 3500 baht in Zone CC and includes transportation from/to the Club. Transportation leaves the Club at 6.30pm, and the concert starts at 8pm. Beverages will be sold on the Coaches and Charged to Members accounts. To book send a fax or email to the Club or sign up at the Clubhouse reception.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27th

Disney on Ice: Disneyland Adventures

We have booked a limited amount of tickets to this upcoming ice skating show held at Impact Arena Muang Thong Thani (SE Zone). Tickets cost 1,300 baht each and includes transportation from and to the Club. Coaches will leave from the Club at 9.30 am. To book for this event, please send a fax or email to the Club or sign up at Clubhouse reception. For more information, please contact Khun Barry.

Wednesday, March 17th, 10 am - Noon

Bumrungrad International, 12th floor Conference Room

By popular demand, Dr. Pansak Sugrakroek is returning to share his expertise in the latest anti-aging approach to women's health. His topics will include managing hormone therapy, and he will also provide the latest information about menopause and anti-aging

Dr. Pansak is a member of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine and International Society of Menopause, and his specialties as an OB/GYN include reproductive endocrinology and menopause. He is also an Assistant Professor at Mahidol University, travels extensively presenting women's health issues, appears on television talk shows and has written numerous articles.

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.

www.bumrungrad.com



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Easter Sunday Fun Day

Sunday 4th April 2010

Happy Easter!!



Come and Celebrate Easter Sunday at the Club We have a wonderful day planned with fun for all the family. At 11 am we start our Easter egg hunt on the back lawn and also have a host of activities including our BC bouncy castle, magic show, puppet show, Easter arts & crafts and face painting

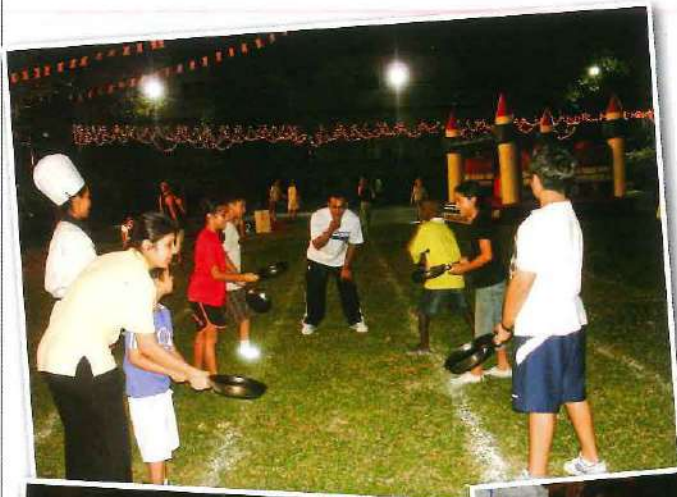
The cost of the event is Bt.350.- for Children
and Bt.200.- for adults,
The cost includes activities, lunch and soft drinks.

Women's Health Forum Feel Young and Beautiful at Any Age



PANCAKE RACES

We ran (pardon the pun) numerous pancake races on the back lawn to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. This was a fun family event that Khun Amnat put together: pancake races, flipping pancakes, pancake eating and a Club chefs' challenge, where all the cooking staff raced — Khun Laak proved her speedy cooking translated well to the racetrack, and she won with ease. Thanks to all the members and staff for a great night!



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Celebrity Dinner with Chef Ken Hom Friday, 19th March 2010

We have a great night lined up for our Members. On Friday, 19th of March 2010, world famous chef Ken Hom will be visiting the Club. Ken is a well known celebrity chef in the United Kingdom. Ken and his brigade of chefs have created a fantastic meal for us and will cook it here at the Club along with Khun Laak and her team.

The evening begins with canapés and a glass of wine or beer, followed by dinner with Ken in the Suriwongse Room. After dinner, Ken will keep us entertained with a talk on his career. There are also some fantastic weekend breaks at the Bandara Resorts, which are associated with Ken Hom, to be won.

The cost of the evening is just Baht 1,000 Per head. Cost excludes drinks except those during cocktail reception.



JAZZ IN THE PARK

We held an afternoon of jazz here at the Club on Sunday, 7th February, with jazz provided by Colonel Somkiat from the Thai Army Band. The weather was perfect and around 80 members enjoyed an afternoon of music in the beautiful Club grounds.

Khun Somboon and his team did a great job of setting up and running the event, and Khun Laak and her team kept everyone happy with her BBQ buffet. The Sunday carvery also proved popular. Pimms and strawberries and cream were also a hit. Khun Susie and her lads did a great job entertaining the kids, leaving mum and dad time to enjoy a drink or three in peace.

Look out for our next "Jazz in the Park", with another band booked for Sunday, 14th March!



The whole world loves Tom Jones!



Sunday, 21st March 2010 at Impact Arena, Muang Thong Thani

Transportation leaves at 6.30 pm

Concert starts at 8.00 pm

THB 3,500 (zone CC) and THB 5,000 (zone A1)

PLEASE RESERVE QUICKLY... The best seats are limited!!!

DACRE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY TEAK WALLAH'S 7TH CYCLE



At 84, how many of us would be able to garner, at a week's notice, 30 friends for a party in the hiatus between Christmas and New Year's?

Well, Dacre Raikes did, and we came from all over Thailand – Pattaya, Hua Hin, Udon Thani, as well as Bangkok. Some of us he'd met in his logging days in Chiangmai, his first job in Thailand in 1951; some from his time as chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce and "taipan" of the Borneo Company, at one time the biggest trading company in Thailand; some from his active participation in music societies and Thai history – he is a past president of the Siam Society; and some he'd just picked up along the way – people who enjoy his company and dry, self-deprecating humour. We were all there.

To mark the occasion, Barry (on behalf of the British Club) presented Dacre with a magnificent ceramic elephant, which now resides about his bed. There was a splendid shortage of speeches: Richard Bones proposed the toast in just under 60 seconds, Dacre replied in just over 30. And Daphne Colwell in magnificent voice (and distinctly reminiscent of Constance Shacklock taking the audience into "Rule Britannia" on the Last Night of the Proms under Sir Malcolm Sargent) then led the ensemble in "Happy Birthday".

Buffet dinner on the back lawn comprised an eclectic range of dishes from turkey with all the trimmings, a whole poached salmon and steak 'n' kidney pie to mince pies and Christmas pudding brought out from the kitchen dripping with flaming brandy. The only thing missing was the holly on top.

Our thanks to the British Club staff, whose efforts made it such a memorable evening.



New Happier Hours

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

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

Bottled imported beers
discount THB 20/ bottle

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

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

House bottled local beers
discount THB 20/bottle

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

PAST PARTICIPLE

Auspicium Melioris Aevi

By Paul Cheesman



We continue our peek into our Club's past as we look at events of 1949...

1 Since mid 1946, no Club member would agree to become the Club's Honorary Secretary, so we employed a Paid Secretary leaving the day-to-day running of the Club with the Butler. With the growth of activity within the Club, it was decided early in 1949 to recreate the Committee post of Honorary Secretary and to employ a fulltime Permanent Assistant Secretary to act as manager. To this end, Mr. A.J. Thorogood was elected to the committee and subsequently elected as Honorary Secretary, and a Mr. Abdul Majid Yacoob Nana was appointed as our first Permanent Assistant Secretary.

2 The AGM of 23rd March 1949 had some reflection in its annual reports. Club Chairman Charles Mabbatt outlined that, outside of events, attendance at the Club was disappointing, whilst reporting for the Honorary Treasurer, Mr E.C. Phillips, that bar sales for the year was only 82,000 Ticals, with a surplus of 16,480 Ticals. Charles concluded his report stating, "We must try to increase our membership and I hope members will use the Club more in the future"... seems like some problems stay with us.

3 Charles Mabbatt, as well as Chairman, was also a fine billiards/snooker player, and in 1949, he instigated the 'Mabbatt Cup', which he promptly went on to win. This Cup was played annually for 44 years until 1993.

4 The tennis section also received new trophies during 1949 – the Turner Bowl competition for married couples with the Club and the Streatfeild Cup, which

was an inter-firms men's doubles competition. Unfortunately, an excessive monsoon prevented their play until 1950. Unlike snooker, there is no record of how long these tournaments were played for or what happened to the cups themselves.

5 The closure of the '40s chapter on our Club history would not be complete without highlighting the tremendous work of Charles Sebastian Insull Mabbatt, a Club member both before and after the war and, over three stretches, our longest serving Chairman to date. Charles was Chairman from 1947 to 1950, 1951 to 1954 and 1955 to 1961 – no mean task since he was also British Chamber of Commerce Chairman from 1952 to 1961.

Charles was born in Tonbridge in Kent in 1906, and travelled to Siam to work for D.Couper-Johnstone & Company of Laphroaig fame. In the 1930s, he married Violet Irenne Sutcliffe in Christ Church, Bangkok.

A most remarkable tale from Charles comes from the history of the Ploenchit Fair when he describes, "I arrived at the empty Club one morning, and whilst inspecting the upstairs was accosted by a Japanese Officer with sword drawn, who wanted to know what I was doing on Japanese property. I explained my mission and he said 'I must accompany him to see his Commander'. I was taken to Nares Road where I was told to wait. Shortly afterwards the Officer accompanied by another came out into the middle of the road and formally presented me with the 'front door key' of the Club. We bowed ourselves apart."

Charles was awarded the CBE in 1954 and retired in 1961. He and Violet continued to live in Bangkok until both their deaths in 1985. They are buried in Bangkok Protestant Cemetery.



Mabbatt grave

We have had a trial Cinema show and a number of Dances, one in aid of the Red Cross Fund and all of which were very successful. Barring these functions and Tennis Tournaments, the Club, unfortunately, is not used in any way as much as it could be and it has been very disappointing to the Committee that, although a lot of work and time has been put, for instance, into conditioning the Tennis Courts (particularly in response to urgent requests for them to be made available) bookings have been few.

Seems like some problems stay with us

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

RECIPROCAL CLUBS

As an active British Club member, you are entitled to enjoy the full use of other associated Club facilities around the world. This month, we feature the The Christchurch Club in Christchurch, NZ.



The Christchurch Club

154 Worcester Street (Corner of Latimer Square)

P O Box 55

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Phone: +64 3 366 9461

Fax: +64 3 366 9460

Email: reception@christchurchclub.co.nz

Website: www.christchurchclub.co.nz

Twelve graziers founded The Christchurch Club in 1856 as a gentlemen's house in the town, providing a high standard of service and facilities. Those traditional values are still in place today.

The Club is revered as one Christchurch's living treasures, an organisation whose incomparable principles have attracted business people, professionals and community leaders to gather and experience the best the city has to offer

The present clubhouse was built in 1861 to the design of Benjamin Mountford who was the colonial architect responsible for most of the stone Gothic revival buildings that characterise central Christchurch. The building has been modified, extended, and partly demolished, but the original timber Italianate design of its Worcester Street and Latimer Square frontages have been carefully preserved. The building is protected as a Category 1 class Heritage building by the Christchurch City Council.

The trees on the Latimer Square and Worcester Street frontages were planted in 1861. Four sycamores and one oak are now protected heritage trees. The age of the holly hedge is not known, but is at least 140 years old.

Buttery and Orangery conservatory was opened in 1987 and 1990. Designed by Sir Miles Warren, they are the newest of the dining areas in the Club. Used daily for lunch and dinner.

The **Anteroom**, ante meaning 'before' in Latin, is where members and guests meet before going in to dine. Large arched windows give views of the Club's East lawn beside Latimer

Square, and the three pairs of French doors on the opposite side open onto the Courtyard garden, which has become the main entrance to the Club.

The **Smoking Room** name goes back to early Victorian times when large English houses and Clubs had special rooms in which smoking was permitted, although smoking in this room is not permitted today. It is a typical English Club room with deep leather chairs, a window seat and an octagonal poker table.

The **Members' Bar** is a picturesque bar, rebuilt in 1968 as part of a major demolition and refurbishment. It is dominated by a large oil painting of a naked Cupid, after one by Bronzino in the National Gallery in London. Renovated in 2009.

The **Drawing Room** is the most cheerful, sunny room in the Clubhouse, facing north and was originally furnished as a room reserved for ladies. It now has many uses as a lounge area for all members.

The **Dining Room** remains substantially unchanged since it was built in 1862. The six Totara timber arches and seven large arched windows are features of the room. The décor suits more formal lunch and evening uses with seating for up to 70 persons.

Accommodation: The seven bedrooms are an example of style and elegance blended to provide traditional comfort and convenience. All have modern facilities including ensuites. Please see the website for further information.

Note:

Please contact the British Club's Membership Services for an introduction letter:

Tel. 02 234 0247

Email: membership@britishclubbangkok.org



THE WARMTH OF BNH'S "LET'S KNIT FOR THE NEEDY"



At the "Let's Knit for the Needy" press conference in CentralWorld on 15th September 2009, BNH Hospital requested volunteers to knit squares for patchwork blankets to donate to students living at a school in a remote mountain area in the north of Thailand to help keep them warm in the 2009 winter season.

Eager to set an example, BNH's Executive Committee pledged that each member of the hospital staff (men and women, from directors to maids) should knit five squares as a contribution to the project. Quickly, the staff members who could already knit set about teaching their colleagues, and so, 'Knitting Fever' started to spread. Features on TV and through articles in magazines and newspapers, others were encouraged to join in, and parcels of knitted squares soon arrived at BNH from all over Thailand and from countries around the world. The ambassadors of the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany and Austria were happy to display their knitted squares in promotional photos. Children and teachers from international and Thai schools; embassy staff; hotel managers and staff; employees from companies, such as True Corporation, Nakorn Luang Thai Bank, True Fitness, Seagate Company, Schenkers Thai, Thai TV Channels 3, 7 and 9; international and Thai celebrities; and TV presenters, such as Andrew Biggs, Khun Ad from the legendary Thai rock band Carabao and Khun Melanie Sukosol (one of our British Club members), not to mention the entire cast and crew of the British musical Mamma Mia, all enthusiastically contributed to the project. A parcel even arrived from the Thai Royal Household a few weeks after information about the project was presented to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.



"Knitting blankets for charity is a great British tradition - I am very pleased to support the BNH 'Let's Knit' project."

การถักผ้าไหมพรม เป็นประเพณีที่ดีงามของประเทศไทย ซึ่งผมภูมิใจที่ได้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของงานนี้

HE Mr. Quenton Quive
British Ambassador



"I haven't knitted for years and I am really enjoying doing it again. Helping is giving me so much pleasure - thank you BNH!"

เมย์ฉันจะไม่ได้อีกหลายปีแล้ว แต่ฉันได้กลับมาถักอีกครั้ง และฉันมีความสุขมากที่ได้ช่วยคนอื่น

Mrs. Shirley Kennedy (on the right)
Bangkok



"There are many ways to make a difference, but I think knitting blankets for charity is a good way to help people in need. The knitted squares are the result of our good intentions and thoughts. Please help us knit more."

มีหลายวิธีที่จะสร้างความแตกต่าง แต่ฉันคิดว่าถักผ้าไหมพรมเพื่อทำ blankets สำหรับคนใน need เป็นวิธีที่ดีในการช่วยคนอื่น

Mrs. Susan Thompson (on the left)
Bangkok



"I crocheted this blanket a few years ago and I am very pleased to donate it for the children at Umphangwittayakom School in the north of Thailand."

ฉันถักผ้าไหมพรมนี้เมื่อหลายปีก่อน และฉันมีความสุขที่ได้มอบมันให้เด็กนักเรียนโรงเรียนอัมพางวิทยา

Mrs. Cheryl Lamb



"Quote 'This is a great project - it is therapeutic for the knitters, educational for children and comforting for the recipients.'"

Khun Edith Stewart MBE (on the right) with friends at the British Club Bangkok
Bangkok



"Knitting and Scottish dancing, they're both about making patterns, and in some dances we even 'cast off'! We're delighted to combine the two, and hope the children in the north will feel as warm as our dancers do!"

Helen Henderson
The British Club

British Club members who deserve a special mention for their involvement in 'Let's Knit' include: Meilan Henderson, who agreed to her Reel Club dancers posing with their knitting at a St Andrews Ball Scottish dancing rehearsal; Cheryl Lamb, who forwarded boxes of beautifully crocheted squares; Bonnie Zellerbach, who persuaded fellow thespians to learn how to knit at a Bangkok Community Theatre (BCT) Wine and Knitting Night; and Edith Stewart, MBE, who is still busy knitting after already sending enough squares herself to complete over four blankets! Shirley Kennedy, Ann Napier, Marion Causton, Louise Truslow and Nicky Borisute have also contributed, and Daphne Colwell is planning to knit for this year's 'Let's Knit' appeal.

British Club member Angela Stafford, who is the manager of the Community Relations Centre at BNH Hospital, wishes to thank all British Club members and friends who have contributed to the success of the project. Enough squares were produced to make an amazing 450 blankets, which were delivered to the children at Umphangwittayakom School in Tak province in November and December last year - enough for each child living at the school to receive their own blanket. (Special thanks also go to Sister Louise and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd volunteer ladies at the Fatima Centre, who lovingly joined all the squares into blankets).

If you would like to know more about the project and enjoy the amusing 'Let's Knit' video with "Knittin' all over the World" soundtrack, performed by teachers from Garden International School, go to www.YouTube.com and search 'BNH Let's Knit', and also visit www.BNH-Lets-Knit.Blogspot.com.



BC CALENDAR - MARCH 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. 	1 Monday Night Club Sherlock Holmes double-bill Wordsworth Lounge 7pm. 	2 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch and Dinner. Quiz Night Sponsored by Tetley's Smooth Flow The Verandah 7.30pm. 	3 Artists at the BC 9am-12.30pm. BCB Balut Shield Wordsworth Lounge 7.05pm.	4 BC at the Movies <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> SF CentralWorld Pre-movie cocktail party, 6pm. Film starts at 7pm.	5 Greek Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.	
7 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. 	8	9 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch and Dinner. 	10 Artists at the BC 9am-12.30pm.		12 British Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.	13 Pinocchio Suriwongse Room 1.30pm and 4pm.
14 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. More Music in the Park Back lawn 4-7pm. Pinocchio Suriwongse Room 1.30pm and 4pm.	15 Monday Night Club <i>Taken at the Flood</i> Wordsworth Lounge 7pm. 	16 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.	17 Artists at the BC 9am-12.30pm. BCB Balut Shield Wordsworth Lounge 7.05pm.		19 Curry Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner. Dinner with Celebrity Chef Ken Hom Suriwongse Room Cocktails begin at 7pm.	20 Pinocchio Suriwongse Room 1.30pm and 4pm.
21 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. Pinocchio Suriwongse Room 1.30pm and 4pm. Tom Jones: Live in Concert Transport leaves Club at 6.30pm. Concert starts at 8pm.	22 Monday Night Club <i>The Sittaford Mystery</i> Wordsworth Lounge 7pm. 	23 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch and Dinner. Club EGM/AGM Suriwongse Room EGM begins 6.30pm, AGM begins 7.30pm.	24 Artists at the BC 9am-12.30pm. 	25	26 Mediterranean Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner. 	27 Disney on Ice: Disneyland Adventures Transport leaves Club at 9.30am. Show starts at 11am. Club Tennis Championship Suriwongse Sala All day.
28 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. 	29 Monday Night Club <i>The Dead of Jericho</i> Wordsworth Lounge 7pm. 	30	31 Artists at the BC 9am-12.30pm.	1	2	

SPORTS & LEISURE

By Reed Passmore

Welcome to an action-packed update of sports and activities from January and February.

Squash v. Tennis Event:

The two heavyweights of racquet sports at the Club went head-to-head in tennis, squash and table tennis (ping pong). This was a fun afternoon, and a late evening for some. The opening rounds went to the squash section, with numerous players proving handy both at tennis and squash. Tennis started to make a late comeback, winning a few rounds from the squash section, but towards the end – or the "championship rounds" – the squash section won on table tennis, giving the squash section the championship belt. The tennis section has already agreed to a rematch. Thanks to all the members that participated, and thanks to Chang Beer for donating several boxes for the event.

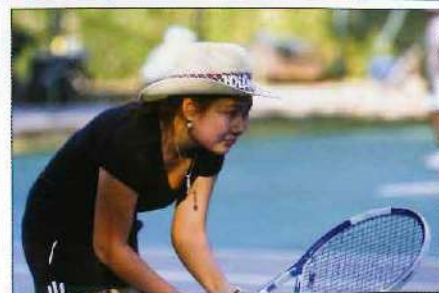


Away Trip:

I had the pleasure of touring with numerous Club members up north to the slightly cooler climate of Chiang Mai. Cricket, squash, tennis and golf were what motivated the tourists to visit the Gymkhana Club. The Gymkhana Club was a great host, setting up a social cricket match, tennis and squash games, and rounds on their beautiful 9-hole golf course. I sat on the sidelines cheering the BC team in the serious match on Sunday for the "Dick Wood Trophy", which the BC won in mighty fashion. Jack Dunford has done an amazing job over the past 28 years in organising, playing and communicating, keeping this long tradition etched in history. A big 'thank you' to all the members, and again to Jack, great work.

Junior Netball Season:

The junior netball season started on 6th February, with over 20 children registering. This is another first for the Club, and it's fantastic seeing so many young children outdoors, enjoying the great facilities on the back lawn. Netball continues all of March and the start of April.



TENNIS

By Reed Passmore

Tennis Championships:

The Tennis Championships are well under way, with the Finals set for Saturday, 27th March. Come and cheer your fellow members (over 160 entrants in this massive event!), enjoy the party and best of all, enjoy some quality tennis.

Squash v. Tennis:

A fun social event, with plenty of laughs and plenty more beer. The tennis section put up a hard fight, but just lost on points. Next challenge is the Club Olympics mid year.

Chiang Mai:

Raquel Evans and Mike Stead led a happy bunch of tennis players to Chiang Mai to team up with squash, cricket and golf for a huge BC event at the Gymkhana Club. With matches played on Saturday and Sunday, all players had a great time, although the most laughs came from a social drinking game orchestrated by Nick White. Chris Watts, the reigning champ, gladly handed the baton over to Glades (for more information, just ask Fiona, Raquel, Kitti, Mike, Chris or Glades). A great trip north, and I am looking forward to next year's tour. Well done, Mike and Raquel, for organising everything and to all the Club members that toured.



Chiang Mai touring team



Around the Club:

Tennis activities have increased over the last three months, with mix-in numbers growing and court bookings increasing. It's great looking out over the four hard courts and seeing all of them busy. Keep playing!



Club Knockers:

The British Club is lucky enough to have some of the best local players/knockers in Thailand – Khun Tom, who has been at the Club for longer than most members; Khun Kwan, who never stops smiling; and Khun Siam, who has just started working Sundays. These three knockers are only 400 baht per session and are available all day, everyday for adults or children. Great for exercise, practicing or just for fun.

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

By Clyde M. Albrecht, Grand Master, Siam Sunday Hash House Harriers 2010

The Hash House Harriers, or "the hash", has become a worldwide phenomenon since its inception in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, circa 1938 (see here for the hash's official history: <http://harrier.net/primer/history.html>). In 1977, the first chapter (kennel) of the hash was established in Bangkok, and the hash has taken off and spread throughout the country, as the combination of exercise, creating a thirst, quenching it and the general gregariousness of the people of the hash has very wide appeal, especially in the tropics.

Sometimes described as a "running club with a drinking problem", or maybe awkwardly, a "drinking club with a running problem", the hash in Bangkok has become an institution and a definite weekly must-do for a lot of reasons. Whether it is exercise, an excuse to build up a thirst, a chance to get to know some of the more interesting and memorable places in and around greater Bangkok, or just to mix and mingle with like-minded people who share a common, friendly, hospitable atmosphere, the Hash House Harriers has thrived for more than thirty years in Bangkok.

In essence, the typical hash run follows a formula like this: a designated runner (the hare) sets off ahead of the pack – sometimes a 'live hare' just minutes ahead or more commonly a few hours ahead – and sets a trail using a combination of shredded paper, flour, chalk or other such (environmentally friendly) markers to allow 'the pack' to follow the trail. The trail can lead to almost anything and traverse almost any path, including hills, khlongs, jungle paths, padi fields, country roads or, indeed, city streets, as is sometimes the case in Bangkok city runs. The hare will (cunningly) try to throw the runners off the scent by laying false trails, or mark the trail with a 'check', leaving the thirsty pack checking for paper to continue on the run to try to catch the hare. The shout of "On, on..." by the runners who find where the trail continues (evidenced by paper/flour/chalk being found again) will bring a rapid stream of glistening runners in that direction to continue the hash run until the next check or false trail. This process is usually repeated six or seven or so times in the course of a run, which typically lasts an hour or so and covers a distance of maybe 8-10 kilometres, with the usual 'stop, check and go' action of the typical hash run.

All this checking and false trails and maybe even hotly contested 'short-cutting' is all part of the game and allows all manner of runners; old, young, male, female, etc. to catch up and keep up and to keep the pack running (more or less) together. The idea is to bring the front-runners (affectionately known as the 'FRBs') and the short-cutters ('SCBs') in at about the same time. The hash runs are NOT a race, and any incidence of 'racing' will be promptly dealt with later by the Grand Master in the circle, who may pour scorn down the throat of the sinners, usually in the form of a foaming little green bottle, to the chants of the circle of runners gathered at the end to wet their whistle and engage in a little light-hearted buffoonery. The hash caters for all levels of fitness, and indeed, there are many 'runners' whose running days are behind them, yet come along for a brisk walk, maybe a short cut and join in the fun at the end.



At the present time in Bangkok, there are seven hash kennels, including the first; Bangkok Hash House Harriers (running each Saturday), the Bangkok MONDAY Hash House Harriers (running each Monday, funnily enough), the Hash House Harriers (running each Wednesday), the Siam Sunday Hash House Harriers (running, typically, on the first and third Sunday of each month), the Full Moon Hash House Harriers (running on a Friday evening closest to the monthly full moon cycle), the Bangkok Hash House Bikers (the Bangkok Mountain Bike Hash rides on the last weekend of each month), and the Nonthaburi Hash House Harriers (a splinter group that runs... whenever it wants to!).

There are no rules in hashing, per se, but there are a few protocols that we follow; actually, rule number one is there are no rules, and if ever in doubt about the rules of hashing, refer to rule number one. What this means is within the broadly based protocols, you can do anything you want; set the run anywhere and go anywhere and make the run your way when YOU are the designated 'hare', and the pack will follow. A typical hash run starts a little before sunset and finishes a little after sunset (yes, it does vary) and typically includes getting wet from inside-out, or in the monsoon season from everywhere around you, including swollen khlongs, etc. You will probably get muddy and dirty and sweaty, but the joy of it all is at the end – you get to clean up and replace those lost fluids with water, a shandy or two and some ice-cold beer.

Typically, the hare is also responsible to organise and host an "on-on-on" after the conclusion of the run and the circle, and this typically means a local Thai restaurant is a convenient starting point for the hash runs and will be the designated site for the Thai food dinner to follow. This usually means excellent local food in a setting most people would otherwise not go to, and yet again washed down with more ice-cold amber liquid. While not all hashers are able to stay and attend the dinner that follows each run, most do if they can because it is always excellent food and all very reasonably priced, and often times sponsored by the hare as a goodwill gesture, as each hare usually sets a hash run once a year.



The hash is driven by a (mis)management committee that changes annually, and there are open, voluntary jobs that are delegated out to the faithful. Each takes a turn at some modest administrative role from time to time, including sending out the regular 'hash trash' email, the 'hash cash' collecting and holding of modest funds on behalf of the hash kennel, the 'hash haberdash', whose task is to maintain some stock of t-shirts, shorts or other hash paraphernalia for sale to visitors, members and guests. The hash kennels are non-profit, and seek only to break-even and offer some level of fun and entertainment to members.

Visitors and guests are always welcome to the hashes anywhere, and usually there is a steady stream from other hash kennels in the region and around the world that are always welcomed as long-lost members and immediately embraced in the culture of the local hashes. It is common to leave titles, prestige and affluence behind when you join the egalitarianism of a typical hash because whoever you are and whatever your position may be, we are all the same on the H3. Most are given hash 'nicknames' by their home hash, which even furthers the divide between who you are in reality day-to-day and who you are on the hash. Usually the hash names define you or your behaviour or characteristics, so if you are nicknamed 'Stumbles', it is probably for some good reason.

New members of all persuasions are welcome to join various hash chapters – there remain some who adhere to Kuala Lumpur H3 (the 'mother hash') principles and only admit members of the male gender, same with Singapore H3 (the 'father hash') and Bangkok H3. There are many others that are mixed, and some are even very specialised, like various mountain bike hashes, which have sprung up all around the world. The best way to find your local hash house harriers' chapter is to use your favourite search engine, and the internet will lead you to your local hash and this week's run. Come and join us for a bit of a sweat... and a coldie at the end.

The Hash has embraced the World Wide Web, and you can find members worldwide at www.hashspace.com



and an online magazine at www.harriermagazine.com, all made by hashers for hashers!

The Siam Sunday Hash House Harriers will be having a special Heineken Brewery run on Sunday, 4th April 2010, hosted by Thai Asia Pacific Brewery in Nonthaburi. This special run hopefully will become an annual event and is open to all members of the hash, as well as visitors and guests. We have been assured that there will NOT be a shortage of beer on the day! This is one S2H3 run you should not miss.

For more info about the Siam Sunday Hash House Harriers, please visit www.siamsundayh3h.com (with links to other hashes in Bangkok).

For more information about the Hash House Harriers, visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hash_House_Harriers



SQUASHY BITS

Here Me Now!

By Bruce Madge, bmadge@hotmail.com



Marv unable to contain himself.

End of January, we went to the Gymkhana Club in Chiang Mai with the cricket and tennis gangs. Way up there in the North it is. Get there by car, train or plane. I went by boat.

Our team was Colin, Da, Neil, Nick White, Marc, Marvyn, and Tony Austin (see photo). I didn't play 'cos I'm scared of heights.

Bottom line is we won 4-3, but not before some extraordinary events took place on court.

Da beat some bloke called Mark, 3-1. Pretty routine, as this Mark fella ain't really that useful, and Da can be. However, halfway through the last game, an incredible situation unfolded when the court door suddenly swung open and in strolled a local moggy, which walked to the T, sat down, and started to take a nap. Well, we couldn't move it, could we? It seemed like it was glued to the floor, and as the other court was busy, we had to leave it there, and Da and Mark had to play around it; very awkward, indeed. At one point, the ball actually hit the cat's tail, and it woke up and shouted, 'Watch it, will ya? I'm trying to get some kip here!' Incredible. Then at the end of their match, it stood up, shook Da's hand, told her she'd played well and then went outside for a cigarette. Amazing.

Colin next; beat some guy whose name I've forgotten, 3-0, or 3-1, or even 3-2. No one can remember, as we were all still reeling from the cat incident. Now Colin had a slight problem, as he forgotten to bring his racket, and no one had a spare. Not a soul. So off he went on a tour of all the local sports shops to purchase a new one. But, alas, all shops in Chiang Mai were clean out of squash rackets. What to do? Forfeit the match or improvise. Colin chose the latter, as he'd very cleverly brought along his WAG, and she has, or should I say had, one of those little Yorkshire Terrier designer dog things. So while she was off scoffing a bowl of noodles, he grabbed the dog by the tail and proceeded to use it as a squash racket, and, after some initial



Digger rebounds Tony's rebound.



The Incredibles.



Neil's missing undies.



Da's cat.



Colin's WAG'S dog before it became a racket.



Marc's: 'Who needs one?'



Nick's victorious grip.

dissent, it proved to be very effective, as he won. Naturally, the dog failed to survive, being used to hit a small rubber ball a few hundred times, but the main thing is that we got a result. And at the end of the day, that's all the matters, isn't it?

Neil lost 3-1, because his opponent was better than him, and fitter, and better, and quicker, and better, and had more shots, and played better, and, well, was just better. But the manner in which Neil played was significant; outstanding; astounding; astonishing. And no one noticed it until the match was over. Not one of the thousands watching picked up on the fact that Neil had played his entire match naked from the waist down. Of course, he had on his usual matching Adidas shirt, sweat bands, shoes and socks, but he'd failed to don any shorts or underwear, so as he ran around the court chasing the ball, all his bit and bobs were jumping and jangling up and down. Yet, still none of us had noticed, and his opponent, Gai, wasn't in the least put off, as he proceeded to give Neil a good hammering. And only at the very end, when they shook hands and Gai said, 'Don't you think you'd better put some shorts on, mate?' did Neil and the vast audience realize that he'd been playing half-naked. An absolutely phenomenal turn of events.

Nick White played next, and he beat a man called Paul, 3-1. And during his match, another implausible situation unfolded: during the warm-up, Nick broke his racket right down at the handle, so all he had was the head, which is useless without any way to hold it, and the stump of a handle, complete with grip. Now, as you've read, no one in attendance had a spare, and all shops in the city were sold out. So what did the desperate man do? He boldly went on court with just the handle and played the game of his life. His opponent was totally flummoxed, and Nick gave him a damn good thrashing with just the grip. And you're not going to believe this, but the very next day, he did the same thing with a cricket bat (see Jack's report). Truly staggering; so much so, that it has to be true, as no one, even with the wildest of imaginations, could ever make up something as miraculous as this.

Marc Sayer to follow, and he played very well to beat Chiang Mai's Michael, 3-0, but not before another inexplicable episode was witnessed. During this match, the ball burst, and no replacement could be found at the club. So while a runner was sent to procure one from a local dealer, both players continued the match without one. Yes, they completed their match ball-less! Peter, using all his improvisational marking skills, refereed

to perfection and declared, after a brief struggle, Marc to be the winner, as he'd played the most inventive, imaginary shots and had anticipated his opponents 'moves' more effectively. Incredible, and no doubt a first in squash history, but most certainly not the last match to be played ball-less.

Captain Marvyn followed by playing appallingly and losing 3-0 to Chiang Mai's captain, Bob. Now then, those of you that have met Bob will confirm that he must surely be one of the funniest guys not on the stage. His astonishing wit knows no bounds, as do his comic talents and impressions, and all-round general hilarity. As soon as one meets him, one is doubled over in spasms of laughter as he makes wisecrack after wisecrack, pulls faces, takes off people's accents, their gait, their playing style; anything and everything. He's Lee Evans, Eddie Izzard and Billy Connolly all rolled into one. Thus, poor old Marvyn, returning from injury for the third time that week, couldn't play for laughing, as every time Bob hit the ball, he did so with a silly noise or a ridiculous grunt. And then in between points, he was cracking jokes and imitating Marvyn's Welsh tones, which had the marker, Peter, all the hundreds of spectators, and of course, Marv himself, in utter hysterics, so that in the end, Marv played like a right nerd because his tummy was hurting so much. Again, a mind-boggling occurrence, but well done to Bob for using his wonderful sense of humour to such great effect.

Finally, Tony Austin came on court to lose 3-0 to Willie. No shame in that, as Tony hadn't played for years and years. Yet this match produced probably the most unexpected, inconceivable, improbable and fantastic shot the world of squash has ever seen: Tony hit the ball high and hard against the front wall, and it rebounded up through the gallery, past Neil's head and out towards the tennis courts where Mike (Digger), playing for the BC tennis section, was just about to serve from the far end. And as he lifted his racket to hit his tennis ball, Tony's squash ball caught him right in the crotch, causing him to squeal out loud in pain and surprise. The squash ball? It rebounded off Digger's crotch, over the tennis net, through Fiona's hair, past the cat, back up through the gallery, between marker Peter's legs, back down towards the court, where it landed right in the front, left-hand corner nick, winning the point for Tony and causing the gallery to erupt, drowning out Digger's cries of agony. Staggering!

Until next time....

BCGS GOLFING NEWS

By Ray Bloom

January Monthly Stableford Competition – Sunday, 17th January – at Bangkok Golf Club, Pathum Thani

During the pre-match gathering, it became obvious that the foreign golf tour groups had returned to savour the delights of this lovely course. These fears were confirmed as we approached the first tee box with forecasts of a 5-hour round dominating our predictions for the day's event.



As part of his many duties, Captain Frank did his best to cheer up his players and seemed to have succeeded with Colin, Jenny and Steve [1]. However, he had yet to work his charm on the old stagers Gareth, Peter and Ray, who had obviously seen it all before but could even force a smile for the camera [2].

Another photographed group also showed little concern over the delay. The healthy-drinking Ashman family saw it as an opportunity for some family bonding, whilst Captain Frank felt the need for something stronger. The nonchalant Steve resisted the offer of a Heineken, believing that one ball is difficult enough to hit [3].



As the round progressed, our fears of extreme slowness were largely unfounded, and most participants (except the putting-challenged golfers who found the greens very slick) enjoyed the course and the less humid weather at this time of the year.

The end result proved the virtue of water-drinking against Heineken, when Barry, with a clear head, rescued some wayward drives to record a great score of 38 points to win the first prize, whilst Frank, on 31 points, was left contemplating a change to Singha for his future tippie before a game.

Captain Frank presented Barry with his tankard in this first Stableford event of 2010 [4].



With no information on pre-match refreshment by Gareth, Jack and Ray Harries, who all came in a joint 3rd place with 30 points, no conclusions can be drawn to recommend any changes to their routines.

January Medal competition – 31st January – at the Royal course, Lat Krabang

It was a tough round, but you know what they say – 'When the going gets tough, the tough sometimes wilt' – and they did. We know the course, and the course knows our frailties, yet it still bites us when least expected. Trees move constantly and bunkers wander around the course, after we've hit, to position themselves in the line of flight.



To counter this, Mr Beautiful Legs, David Lamb [5], employed the services of a very protective caddy to prepare him for the forthcoming challenge, and Andrew and Gordon were happy to display their knees [6] – not sure about Pete's – never seen 'em. Did you know that the uglier a man's legs are, the better he plays golf? It's almost a law.

To prove the above point, Captain Frank and his shapely pegs came in 3rd in Flight A (handicaps under 17) with a nett score of 72, and Mike Staples, equally well-contoured, made 2nd place, also with nett 72, but edged out Frank on a countback. Whilst winner Gareth Sampson (with nett score of 71) was smartening his pins for his presentation photo [7], fellow participants were happy to relax and contemplate their own physical attributes [8 and 9].



In the Flight B category, Rose Milne came in 3rd with a nett score of 75. I resist commenting about the extent to which she fits the above legs hypothesis, as husband Gordon, in spite of whistling nonchalantly at the side, watches on critically. Looking pleased with his 2nd place, also with nett 75, Andrew posed with cute Peter Bond during their after-golf relaxation [10].

Far from finding it tough-going, new boy Varghese Rose made the top spot in Flight B, with a very impressive nett score of 74, and was delighted to receive his award from Captain Frank. Well done, Varghese [11].

British School of Bangkok Match Play Plate Final and Stableford Competition – 7th February – Kiarti Thane Country Club



In response to the seriousness that Peter Gale and Brian Brook were attaching to the Match Play Plate event, both arrived early, obviously too excited to sleep, to sip a little coffee, try some intimidating tactics and ensure that artificial stimulants weren't being taken by their rival. The remaining golfers received their playing order from Captain Frank, and all prepared themselves for the best round of their lives. Such was the intensity of the build-up to the Plate Final that the two adversaries had to be kept apart by sponsor Peter Bond before releasing their pent-up aggression on the 1st tee [12].

After much conjecture about the origin of the excessive brightness pervading the course, all was revealed when smartly-attired Captain Frank unveiled his new white shoes to replace his 30-year-old blacks, bought by his parents to celebrate winning his Primary School egg-and-spoon race. With a unique camera adjustment to take account of the glare, I was able to snap Frank looking very pleased with his new image, as well as his first Heineken [13].



It was a challenging round with low-ish scores. In the after-golf presentation gathering, Frank teased us with a tantalising build-up to the Match Play Plate announcement with his 'Miss World' style, beginning with the Stableford result. Robert Gray came in 3rd with an impressive 37 points, just edged out by Captain Frank, also with 37 points, after a three-round bare-knuckle fight on the 18th green. The winner, with an even more impressive 38 points, was Yurachatr Brook, who received her prize from battle-scarred Frank. Well done, Yurachatr [14].



Unable to subdue the clamour for news of the Match Play Plate final any longer, Frank eventually called order to announce that Pete had just beaten Brian in a closely contested match. With smiles all round, sponsor Peter Bond, Director of the British School of Bangkok, presented the prizes and posed with the two protagonists, who by now had made up. Well done, Pete [15].

The final of the Match Play Competition will have been played on 14th February, where there will be no love lost between Mike Staples and Peter Clark (get it, Valentine's Day?), the report for which will appear in the next edition of Outpost.

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

Website: www.bcgolfsociety.com
Email: bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk
Phone: Frank Fawkes, Club Captain, on 089 165 1953

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

BRIDGE

By Martin Carter

Between 2.30pm and 6pm on Sunday afternoons (except the last Sunday of each month), we play Duplicate Bridge in the Surawongse Room. The sedate setting is a front for a competitive afternoon and a welcome to guest players from the Polo Club, Sports Club and international travellers (recently an American admiral). Bridge Section Committee Treasurer Winlock Hsu organises events. BCB General Committee member Jeremy Watson, Martin Carter and Mike Sims make up the section committee, respectively as President, Secretary, and Tournament Director.

Bridge goes to the "Races"

On Sunday, 17th January, we galloped into the new decade with the Bridge Pad electronic scoring system up and running. With a handheld console on each card table, connected by Bluetooth wireless to a laptop, the British Club has a system that displays Duplicate Bridge results in real-time. As the rankings of the pairs changed on the screen throughout the afternoon, the usually inscrutable competitors alternated between smiles and frowns as they cast furtive glances at the result screen. The event was an outstanding success: all nags finished.

Bridge Lessons

We are fortunate at the Club with both Jeremy Watson and Helmer Nissen teaching Bridge. On Saturdays, Helmer Nissen has been throwing his pearls before the intermediate and advanced players while Jeremy has been nursing the novices on Tuesdays. Bridge, like tennis, can be intuitive, but for most, the game will improve with lessons. It is never too late to learn. To increase your fun and retard your partner's temper tantrums, have a few lessons. Even world-class tennis players employ coaches. Bridge players lose because they make unforced errors. If you can count to 13 and subtract, then you have all the potential of a well-above average Club player.



Martin Carter (left), Helmer Nissen (center)



At the British Club's teaching sessions we extend a welcome to some of the best young players in Bangkok, including members of the Chulalongkorn University Bridge Club.

Bridge Folklore

"They walk the Streets in every clime who fail to draw their trumps on time!"

You may have heard about those poor fellows who sleep at night on the Thames Embankment, exposed to the cold winter winds, and who spend their days aimlessly tramping up and down Fleet Street and the Strand. Their plight is ascribed to the fact that they did not lead trumps at the first opportunity. Let's look at this Embankment legend more closely. To avoid the Embankment, one should draw trumps at once when you fear that opponents may ruff winners in your side suits. However don't draw trumps when:

- (1) you need to make extra tricks by ruffing losers in dummy;
- (2) you need to retain an entry in dummy to establish a side suit;
- (3) you may have to leave opponents with their best trump—one that will make a trick in any case; and
- (4) before embarking on a cross ruff, cash your winners in the side suits, otherwise opponents may ruff them in the end game.

In these situations, it is not leading trumps that will keep you from the Embankment.

Computer Games, TV or Bridge?

If you had the choice, how would you prefer to spend your inactive hours? Bridge has been going through a revival, not only at the British Club, but throughout the world, as we wake up to the alternatives. It takes a little effort to learn to play, and that effort should be fun. If you start the journey, you may become addicted; but unlike opium, bridge massages the mind.

You, dear Member, can hold much better cards than you do at present—not by dealing yourself more aces and kings, but by getting a higher return from your existing portfolio. Persuade your cards to work for you harder than they do for your opponents. Therein lies the formula for fun.

BC BALUT



Arithmetic skills are much tested!



Can we make it two wins out of four tournaments?

BALUT SHIELD UPDATE

The Balut Shield continues as our twice-monthly contest and tends to inspire some great Balut playing. All members are invited to play, and we give you your first tournament free (and we will teach you how to play). After that, if you join the section, you get 50% off the Balut Shield tournament fees—and all tournaments come with two prizes of bottles of wine, courtesy of OUTRIGGER HOTELS & RESORTS. Section members must play six tournaments in a year, and they are then ranked by their 'Best 6 average'; the leader in September takes the Balut Shield. There is also a Balut Shield Cup for the highest single score across the year.

As of 4th February, six players have qualified for the 2009-10 Balut Shield:

Position	Name	Player	Points	Average
Leader	TC	Phil Alexander	3107	103.57
2	Swampy	Steve Eaton	3035	101.17
3	Slowpoke	Tony Rodriguez	2953	98.43
4	Bowling Ball	Bob van Es	2938	97.93
5	The Jackal	Carlos Romero	2856	95.20
6	Mr C	Paul Cheesman	2752	91.73

The current highest score of the year is held by Jammy (Roger Willbourn) with a 147. There are currently 26 other players in the qualifying league—full details are on the Balut notice board in the Clubhouse.

THE 30th STC INTERPORT

As we go to press, there are only 288 days until the start of the 30th STC Interport Balut Competition, so things are slowly starting to gather pace. The '30-Organising Committee' has its first full meeting in February, with its stated aim to even better our successful 2008 hosting of the competition. With feedback from dozens of players over the years, we are confident we understand what worked well and what did not, and aim to raise the standard overall.

The 2010 competition will be spread over two days but overlaps both sides... early registration on Thursday, November 18th, in readiness for an Interport Golf day on the Friday, to be supported by members of the British Club Golf Section (thanks!); the Friday evening reception will again feature the British Club Pipe & Drum Band (how many encores last time, guys?); a full day on the Saturday with the Competition and the Tournament prize-giving dinner and then a relaxing Sunday with optional tours... although for some, that will be a trip from the Churchill Bar to The Verandah and back!

We are, at the outset, very conscious of the need for sponsorship to fuel this whole event. Last time, the 133 players drank over 200,000 baht of wine, beer and whisky, and consumed some 250,000 baht of food, and we had set-up costs of nearly 400,000 baht. This year we expect 160 players.

The 30th STC Interport Balut Competition welcomes your support.

QUIZ NIGHT

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

By Fingall O'Flahertie

The first quiz night of 2010 saw six teams, a mix of battle-hardened regulars and feisty tyros, delving into the dankest crannies of their brains. Inquisitor Rodney guided his victims gently into the melee with a relaxed first round (identifying Michael Schumacher and Thierry Henry; the Wars of the Roses; that old quiz favourite of Captain Kirk's middle name).

Things got tougher in round two. Where is the southernmost point of European mainland? Who were the members of the Jackson Five other than Michael? Which sports stadium is named after a World War One flying ace? Only one team broke through the 30-point barrier on this one, even with the assistance of an across-the-board two-point bonus when the music round succumbed to gremlins. Rounds three and four were more forgiving (who was the original presenter of Mastermind? what's the chemical symbol of silver?), leaving many to wonder whether Rodney's getting too cuddly in his advancing years, or if he's just softening us all up for a really vicious battle next month.

Round one ended with Shminky Binky Bang Bang sharing first place with relative newcomers PH18, but the old hands of Shminky pulled ahead in the second leg and never quite relinquished their lead, eventually taking the top spot by a healthy seven-and-a-half-point margin. Another Team started strongly, but lost their way slightly; the Bangkok Gentleman Spoofers made a bid for glory in round three, but it was too little, too late. Jim's Junkies, by their own high standards, had a bit of a shocker, only avoiding last place by holding off a plucky challenge from first-timers Afterthought, whose gritty performance bodes well for the future.

So why not join them? This is one event where the more really is the merrier. Sharpen your pencils and your intellects, and join the fun. The next quiz is on Tuesday, 2nd March, at 7.30pm.

Rodney's Brainmelters:

- How many operas are there in Wagner's Ring Cycle?
- In January of what year did the Shah of Iran flee the country?
- What is the main ingredient of a soufflé?
- Which Italian invented the electric battery?
- Which is the world's most poisonous fish?
- In Japan, what is a gaijin?



If in doubt, pray.



100' 4" (30.58 m)
A poor loser demonstrates his displeasure.



Rodney achieves the Holy Grail of quizmasters, and actually manages to explode a contestant's brain.



Correcting the spelling of one's teammates is regarded as terribly bad form.



Oil! Are you staring at my pint?



The pencil-up-nose trick comes in handy again.



An impromptu love-in helps to soothe the nerves.

SUDOKU

We'll keep it short and sweet this month and let the puzzles speak for themselves (okay, full disclosure: the Sudoku Lab's still suffering a collective hangover after the big Sudoku Ball at the Club in February; what, you didn't receive your invitation? Talk to Barry about that mishap!).

So, in self-induced agony, the Lab was just barely able to cobble together a couple of Sudokus to tide you over for March, and here they are. Think you've got what it takes to best your fellow Member's times? Send your solution times to Baz by email or fax (info on page 1), and more oft than not, you'll see yourself lovingly mocked on the most popular page in Outpost (uh, that would be this one, doubters). Til then!



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7		9		2				
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LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS:

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

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

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GRAND PRIX



4 World Champions - 19 Races - 26 Cars

This March 14th sees the start of the 61st season of Formula One motor racing with the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix set to take place on the newly improved and slightly longer Bahrain International Circuit.

The 61st season is heralded as one of the largest ever: the addition of a new circuit in Korea (if it is completed on time) will give us 19 races in this year's calendar, and with the additional teams of Campus F1, US F1 and Virgin F1 (if they all make it to Bahrain), we will have 26 cars on the starting grid. Amongst the 26 drivers driving this year, we have no less than one World Champion (Jenson Button, MBE) and three past world champions (Lewis Hamilton, MBE; Fernando Alonso and, of course, the returning Michael Schumacher).

This season will also see the return of 'full tank racing', whereby cars cannot be refuelled during the race - oddly enough, however, is that pit stops will be required, as cars still have to use both types of tyres on offer at some point during the race, with the front set of tyres being 25 mm narrower this year. 26 cars means a change to the qualifying system - still the three sessions, but this year, eight cars drop out from sessions 1 and 2, with the remaining 10 playing for the final grid position.

There will be a new scoring system for this season, as well - 25 points for first place, 18 for second, 15 for third, ten for fourth, and then eight, six, four, three, two, and finally, one for tenth place. This is designed to make racing more dynamic with seven points between first and second places.

Finally, after years of dubious and often contentious stewards' decisions, a fixed pool of permanent stewards will now control all races. It is hoped that this will make the stewarding process more open and transparent.



So, fill in your diary, and wait for those five red lights to go out!

The 2010 F1 Season

DATE	RACE	STARTING TIME (in Thailand)
14th March	Bahrain GP	19.00
28th March	Australian GP	13.00
4th April	Malaysian GP	15.00
18th April	Chinese GP	13.00
9th May	Spanish GP	19.00
16th May	Monaco GP	19.00
30th May	Turkish GP	18.00
13th June	Canadian GP	23.00
27th June	European GP	19.00
11th July	British GP	19.00
25th July	German GP	19.00
1st August	Hungarian GP	19.00
29th August	Belgian GP	19.00
12th September	Italian GP	19.00
26th September	Singapore GP	19.00
10th October	Japanese GP	13.00
24th October	Korean GP	12.00
7th November	Brazilian GP	23.00
14th November	Abu Dhabi GP	20.00

MONDAY NIGHT CLUB

We continue our TV series of famous detectives each Monday throughout March, and this month, we restart showing INSPECTOR MORSE!

MARCH

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

1st The Red-headed League/The Naval Treaty

A double-bill of Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes...

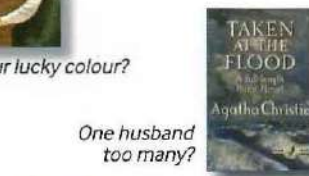
- Where the colour of your hair gets you a job, but the colour of your trousers gives Sherlock the vital clue.
- A vital treaty is stolen, but no enemy state appears to receive it - I wonder where it bedded itself down?



Is red your lucky colour?

8th There is no Monday Night Club on this day. 15th Taken at the Flood

A tragic-but-rich young widow, an overpowering brother, two dead husbands (or maybe not) and a gaggle of money-grabbing relatives - surely someone dies? John Suchet is Hercule Poirot.



One husband too many?

22nd The Sittaford Mystery

'Captain Trevelyan... dead... murder' - an adaptation of the novel of the same name, now to star Jane Marple, but all the clues are there - so why did he die... and how? That is the mystery. Starring Geraldine McEwan.



Die? That's the last thing I shall do!

29th The Dead of Jericho

We start from the very beginning of Inspector Morse with a tale of murder, where the chief suspect seems to be Oedipus, the King of Thebes. Sadly, it's all Greek to Sergeant Lewis. John Thaw stars as DCI Morse, with Kevin Wheatley as DS Lewis.



The first-ever Morse!

"KNOCK! KNOCK! WHO'S THERE? DOCTOR! DOCTOR WHO?"

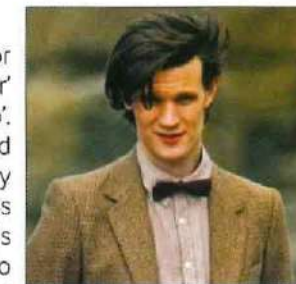
Later in March 2010, the BBC will transmit in the UK the new series of 'Doctor Who', the 33rd year since 1963 that new episodes of 'Doctor Who' have been broadcast - a record no other sci-fi show can match. But what is this fascination with a 1963 TV series originally destined for a 13-episode run? A fascination so large that 12.27 million viewers watched the final episode of 'The End of Time' this past Christmastide. I think it is because Doctor Who is unique.



Doctor Who as a concept is unique in four ways... The Doctor, his companions, his Tardis and, of course, the monsters:

The Doctor

The star of the show 'Doctor Who' is actually 'The Doctor' and not a guy called 'Dr. Who'. Originally portrayed as an old man, The Doctor was played by William Hartnell, but as the series progressed, we were shown his ability to regenerate; that is, to change into someone else but still being essentially the same person. Devised originally as a means to change lead actor when William Hartnell became too ill to act, the series has put viewers through ten such regenerations, so that in 2010, we say hello to our newest - and youngest - Doctor, in the person of Matt Smith. Along the way, we have also said hello and goodbye to Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, Peter Davison, Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy, Paul McGann, Christopher Eccleston and, most recently, David Tennant - 47 years, 11 Doctors!



"Geronimo!"

The Companion

In order to give the audience someone to identify with and someone to ask those silly questions like, "What are you doing?" or "How does this work?", we have the companion - someone or, in many cases, several people to travel with The Doctor and ask all those questions that the viewer is dying to ask. The Doctor set out originally with his granddaughter, Susan, from their home planet Gallifrey and landed in London in 1963, where they picked up two of her schoolteachers. Not all companions have been human, some are aliens, and two were robots. All in all, The Doctor has had 42 companions in the thousand years of his life span that we have seen so far.

The Tardis

The heart of the show has always been the Tardis, based upon the 1960s 'Police Public Call Box'. The Tardis is unique in sci-fi lore, in that it is 'bigger on the inside than on the outside' and can travel through time and space to any planet in any age. In the course of the years, The Doctor has visited 350 planets

from the beginning of the universe to the year 100 Trillion. Of course the Tardis is supposed to reshape itself when it lands, so as to blend in with the locale, but originally, the design was fixed to reduce costs; and contrary to popular opinion, the box was not borrowed from 'Dixon of Dock Green'. In fact, so cost-conscious was the BBC, that the first box was used for 13 years before it literally fell to pieces, injuring Elisabeth Sladen, who played Sarah-Jane Smith, the most popular of companions. The Tardis, used in all but seven of the 206 serials seen to date, is a unique means to travel from Ancient Rome to a planet hundreds of centuries in the future in just a few minutes.

The Monsters

To the joy and sometimes fear of child and adult viewers alike, there have always been monsters in 'Doctor Who'. As was once said on-screen, "The monsters and The Doctor, you cannot have one without the other". So far, we have been witness to 327 alien creatures and races across the universe. Not all are bad, of course; just most of them, it seems. Monsters come in all shapes and sizes, from the totally blind but huge and carnivorous Drashigs to the sweet marshmallow-like Adipose, from the humanoid Movellans to the planet-like Krynoids; the most famous and, unarguably, most dangerous being the Daleks, first seen on our screens in 1963 and about to return again in 2010. In 1970, the BBC even scared the kids who were 'hiding behind the sofa' when a sofa came alive on screen and ate someone!

And of the future

There have been 756 episodes of 'Doctor Who' since 1963 - with 14 more to follow in 2010. So when Matt Smith and Karen Gillan hit our screens as the eleventh Doctor and his companion, Amy Pond, we will show them on the big screen in the British Club - full dates will be in April's Outpost, on the Club website and on posters on the Events board.



"I am The Doctor, the original you might say"

"Doctor? What Doctor? Doctor who?"

KHUN LAAK'S ON THE MENU

Another great feast ahead for you and yours this month, but as always, if you are just too tired, too overwhelmed or just plain too lazy, then pop into the Club this month, and we'll make it for you!



Roasted fillet of beef rolled in herbs and porcini mushrooms and wrapped in prociutto
Serves 4

12-18 slices prociutto or Parma ham • 3 cloves of garlic, peeled • 1 good handful of dried porcini mushrooms, soaked in around 285ml/½ pint boiling water • 3 good knobs of butter • juice of ½ lemon • sea salt and freshly ground black pepper • 900g/2lb fillet of beef (preferably from the middle, left whole) • 1 good handful of fresh rosemary and thyme leaves, picked and chopped • 2 glasses of red wine

Preheat your oven and an appropriately sized roasting tray to 230°C/450°F/gas 8. Make sure there are no gaps in between the laid-out slices of prociutto. Chop one of the garlic cloves and fry with the soaked porcini mushrooms in 1 knob of butter for a minute. Then add half of the soaking water (make sure it is grit-free). Simmer slowly and reduce for around 5 minutes before stirring in a squeeze of lemon, the remaining 2 knobs of butter and seasoning. Rub the moist mushrooms over half of the laid-out prociutto. Season the fillet of beef and roll it in the herbs. Place it on the mushroom-y end of the prociutto and roll the meat. Once the beef is rolled up, pull off the paper and push in the ends of the prociutto to neaten. Lightly secure with 4 pieces of string.

Place the fillet in the hot roasting tray with a couple of cloves of garlic and cook for 25-30 minutes (rare), 40 minutes (medium), 50 minutes (well-done) or 60 minutes (creamed!). Halfway through, add the wine to the tray. When the meat is done, remove it to a chopping board and leave it to rest for 5 minutes. Pour any juices back into the roasting tray. Simmer the juices on the hop, scraping all the goodness from the sides of the tray. Remove from the heat and serve as a light red wine gravy. Slice the fillet as thick or as thin as preferred.

Warm Bread Salad of Crispy Pancetta, Parmesan and Poached Egg
Serves 4

1 ciabatta loaf • extra virgin olive oil • 1 clove of garlic, peeled and sliced • sea salt and freshly ground black pepper • 12 slices of pancetta of dry-cured smoked streaky bacon • juice of 1 lemon • 4 large organic eggs (must be very fresh) • 3 large handfuls of rocket • 1 oak leaf lettuce • 100g/1/3oz Parmesan cheese, in one piece

Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/gas 6. Remove the crusts from the ciabatta and discard, then tear the bread into finger-sized pieces. Place on a baking tray, drizzle with a little olive oil and toss with the garlic and seasoning. Bake for 10 minutes until crisp, then lay the pancetta over the bread and bake for 5 more minutes until that's crispy too. Mix the lemon juice with 8 tablespoons of oil and season. Put a big pan of unsalted water on to boil.

In a large bowl, toss the salad leaves, pancetta, bread and dressing together, then divide between 4 plates. When the pan of water is simmering, add 4 eggs. They must be really fresh for successfully poached eggs. Cook for 4 minutes for a soft egg, or to your liking. Place an egg on each salad and shave over Parmesan using a vegetable peeler.



Chocolate pots
Serves 4

In a thick-bottomed pan, heat the cream until nearly boiling. Remove and set aside for 1 minute before snapping in chocolate. Stir in until melted and smooth. Once melted, beat in egg yolks and brandy, and stir until smooth. Allow to cool slightly before stirring in the butter until the mixture is smooth. Pour into individual serving pots.

Note: sometimes if you add the butter when the chocolate isn't cool enough, it will make the chocolate look as if it has split. To rectify this, allow the mixture to cool a little longer before whisking in a little cold milk until you have a smooth consistency again.

Also, if you want to lighten the texture to make it into more of a mousse, then follow the recipe above but fold in 2 stiffly whipped egg whites before pouring into the pots. 285ml/½ pint single cream • 200g/7oz best-quality cooking chocolate (70% cocoa solids) • 2 large egg yolks • 3 tablespoon brandy, the best you can get • 20g/¾oz butter

Orange and polenta biscuits
Makes around 25 biscuits

170g/6oz butter • 170g/6oz sugar • 255g/9oz polenta • 100g/3 ¾ oz plain flour • zest of 2-3 oranges, finely chopped • 2 large eggs

Rub the butter, sugar, polenta and flour together before mixing in the orange zest and the eggs. Cover with clingfilm and put in the fridge for an hour until slightly firm. Place a large square of greaseproof paper on a baking tray and spoon small teaspoons of the mixture in lines 5cm/2in apart. Bake in a preheated oven at 190°C/375°F/gas 5 for around 5-6 minutes until the outside edges of biscuits are lightly golden. Remove from the oven and allow to cool for 15 minutes before eating.

At Poolside

Kiwi Lassie

6oz kiwi juice • 2 tsp yoghurt • 1oz honey • ¼ scoop cracked ice

Blend all ingredients together until slushy and pour into glass.



Strawberry Chocolate Protein Shake

4-5 pcs fresh or frozen strawberry • 1 tbsp chocolate protein powder • 1 tbsp yoghurt • 1 tbsp honey • 4oz water • ¼ scoop cracked ice

Blend all ingredients until slushy and pour into glass.



Raspberry and Orange Shake

1 tbsp fresh or frozen raspberry • ½oz fresh lime juice • 6oz fresh orange juice • 1½ oz syrup • ¼ scoop cracked ice

Blend all ingredients together and pour into glass.



PINOCCHIO

THE NOSE KNOWS!



British Club families are in for a real treat this March. Bangkok Community Theatre (BCT) has teamed up with the British Club and BNH Hospital to put together a special afternoon of theatre and fun activities to delight young children.

The focus of the afternoon is the children's participation play *Pinocchio* (1 hour), which will be performed by BCT as theatre-in-the-round in the Suriwongse Room the middle two weekends in March. This wonderfully inventive piece of theatre follows the same format as the hugely successful productions of *Hansel & Gretel* staged by BCT in 1999, *Rumpelstiltskin* in 2002, *Aladdin* in 2003, *Puss in Boots* in 2005, and *The Emperor's New Clothes* in 2007. *Pinocchio* is the sixth in BCT's 10-year tradition of participation plays, and though the casts vary from show to show, all six plays have been directed by British Club member Bonnie Zellerbach.

As the play opens, a group of strolling players prepare to stage their daily performance. They seek the advice of the children in the audience as to what story they should perform, and into the play we go. After the prologue and overture, which inventively introduce the young audience to the conventions of the stage (costumes, acting, sets), the players enact the story of the magic puppet, Pinocchio, and his quest to become a real boy. Along the way, we meet other puppets, a showman, the villainous Fox and Cat, and a whale, not to mention the kindly, if rather befuddled, puppet-maker Geppetto. The Blue Fairy and the Cricket enlist the help of the audience to work some magic and finally bring about a happy ending for all.

Everyone sits on the floor during this charming participation play, just inches away from the actors at the start, but the action soon spills into the audience (there are some chairs at the back for grandparents or the less hardy who might find an hour sitting on the floor too much!). The play is designed for children 4-9 years old; however, parents will also enjoy the antics of the actors, especially when they need to improvise to keep up with their young audience! Of course, some younger or older children may also enjoy this kind of imaginative theatre, but BCT advises that it really isn't appropriate for infants and toddlers.

As delightful as the production of *Pinocchio* will be, that's only part of the afternoon's activities. Khun Laak and the BC staff



will be offering a delicious picnic barbecue and snacks on the lawn both before and after each performance (not included in the ticket price), so you can come early and eat before or stay late and have a picnic with family and friends afterwards. Furthermore, the bouncy castle will be set up on the lawn, and BNH Hospital volunteers will be working with the children on not one, but two special crafts that the children can use during the show (the craft is already included in the ticket price). Make sure you allow enough time before the show to enjoy the craft activities, and if you stop by the children's section at the NH Library next door on one of the show dates, you can purchase library membership at a discounted rate as well. Finally, we know how much children love to dress up, so please encourage your little ones to come dressed as their favourite storybook character to add to the fun.

This is truly an enchanted children's event and one not to be missed. So mark your calendars with the details below. If you'd like to find out more about BCT or the show, please visit www.bct-th.org, email pinocchio@sala.net or call 089 887 7945.

BCT would like to thank the sponsors of this event for helping to create a truly magical afternoon: Bangkok Patana School, BNH Hospital, JVK International Movers and the British Club.

Show times for *Pinocchio* are 1.30pm and 4.00pm on Saturday and Sunday, March 13th and 14th, and Saturday and Sunday, March 20th and 21st. Crafts activities will be available an hour before the first performance until 4.00pm each day. Tickets for the play, including the crafts are one price, 200 baht per person. BC members may purchase tickets by sending an email to eventbooking@britishclubbangkok.org or by signing for them at reception. The general public may purchase tickets on a cash basis at the lobby reception desk at BNH Hospital on Convent Road. Please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment, as seating is limited.

Bangkok Community Theatre
merrily presents
a delightful interactive play for children

Pinocchio

in the Suriwongse Room at
The British Club
Silom Soi 18 Tel 02-234-0247

**Saturday & Sunday, March 13th & 14th and
Saturday & Sunday, March 20th & 21st, 2010**
performances twice daily at 1:30pm and 4:00pm

Tickets at B200 are available at BC reception from February 22nd.
* Members may sign for tickets in person or make a booking by email (eventbooking@britishclubbangkok.org) or by fax (02-235-1560.)
* Sorry, no bookings by telephone. Tickets are available to the General Public on a cash basis via the BNH Hospital on Convent Road.

Come early to visit the BNH Hospital volunteers on the front lawn and make some simple crafts that the children can use to participate in the show
* (crafts are already included in the ticket price) and stop by the children's section at the NHL next door to receive library membership at a discounted rate.

* Stay late and enjoy the delicious picnic barbecue, sweets and snacks that Barry and his team will provide on the lawn (refreshments are not included in the ticket price.)

The performance is in English and designed for children 4-9 years old, but the child in everyone will enjoy this unique type of live theatre-in-the-round, which stimulates the imagination and involves the audience in the action throughout! Children are encouraged to come dressed in costume to add to the fun.

Seating is limited so make your purchase early to avoid disappointment. For more information, please email: pinocchio@sala.net, visit the BCT website at www.bct-th.org or call 089-887-7945.



Bangkok Patana School
The British International School in Thailand
Established 1957



SUSIE'S Kids Korner

Wee Leprechaun

Even if you can't catch a leprechaun this March 17th, you can still make one.

Craft Materials

- Toilet paper tube
- Green craft foam
- Acrylic paints: green, skin-tone, pink, and brown
- Black permanent marker
- Tacky glue
- 4 brown pipe cleaners
- Decorative button

Instructions

1. For this crafty little decoration, first trace around the end of a toilet paper tube onto a piece of green craft foam.
2. Draw a 2½-inch circle around the first circle, then cut them both out to create a hat top and brim and set them aside.
3. Next, using acrylic paints, paint the paper tube green. Add a skin-tone face and hands, plus rosy cheeks, as well as a band of brown paint around the back for hair.
4. Once the paint has dried, use a permanent marker to draw on facial and clothing details, then use tacky glue to stick on 3 coiled brown pipe cleaners: 2 in the back for hair and 1 around the face for a beard. For feet, fold another pipe cleaner in half, then tightly coil and pinch the ends, as shown.
5. Place the folded pipe cleaner inside the tube and glue the feet to the edge. Glue on the hat top and brim and a 5½-inch by ½-inch strip of craft foam for arms.
6. Finally, glue a decorative button to the hat brim.



Green Stamp



Spread the luck o' the Irish this St. Patrick's Day with a homemade shamrock stamp. Use it to decorate paper place mats, coasters, tablecloths, or anything else your little leprechauns wish to dress in green.

Craft Materials

- Heart-shaped cookie cutter (2½ inches wide and long)
- Potato, cut in half
- Paring knife
- Green acrylic paint
- Paintbrush

Instructions

1. Press a heart-shaped cookie cutter (ours was 2½ inches wide and long) into the cut face of a potato half.
2. With the cutter still in place, use a paring knife to cut the potato from around the heart (a parent's job).
3. Remove the cutter, then dip the heart into green acrylic paint and press it onto the paper. Repeat to make two more leaves, then use a paintbrush to add a swish for the stem.



St. Patrick's Day Jokes for Kids

Why did St. Patrick drive the snakes out of Ireland?
He couldn't afford plane fare.

Knock, knock! Who's there?
Irish.
Irish who?
Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day!

Why do frogs like St. Patrick's Day?
Because they're always wearing green.

Knock, knock! Who's there?
Warren.
Warren who?
Warren anything green today?

How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?
He's Dublin over with laughter!

What do you get if you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover?
A rash of good luck!

How did the Irish jig get started?
An Irishman drank too much water without a toilet nearby!

Do leprechauns get angry when you make fun of their height?
Yeah, but only a little!

What does Ireland have more of than any other country?
Irishmen!

What is out in the yard all summer and is Irish?
Paddy O'Furniture

What does it mean when you find a horseshoe?
Some poor horse is going barefoot!



MALAYSIA ~ THAILAND ENDURANCE CHALLENGE TROPHY 2010



DURATION : 80 KM

Friday 19 - Sunday 21 March 2010
Thai Polo & Equestrian Club
Pattaya

www.thai-polo-club.com

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