

Spring
is in the air



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

Outpost

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March 2015

Feature

The ones that got away

Reviews

Members Gathering
Quiz Night

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**FRONT COVER**

The cold season is gone and it's getting hotter, which means Spring must be here although you're unlikely to see any daffodils around which is a shame. But it means Easter is on the way as is Songkran, with the fun and excitement they bring for families and us all.

EDITOR'S GREETING

Dear Members,

This month we have a Member's contribution about his relative's experience during the war which I think you will enjoy reading. Also a more pictorial look at a couple of recent events which were well attended and most enjoyable.

Next month we start a new series called "As We Were" which will bring some interesting photos of the Club and its environs some years ago.

Ed.



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

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Three out of three is excellent !!

Driving into the Club this morning, I was listening to one of my favourite rock groups of all time...Meat Loaf...and I was thinking about this article, due to be submitted in a few hours time, when they played one of their best tracks: "Two out of three ain't bad". How time flies.....

This is already my 5th year on the General Committee, two years as Treasurer and now three years as Chairman. Yes indeed how time flies...

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

Under Jonathan Truslow as Chairman, my first two years on the General Committee were focussed on bringing back stability to the Club's financial affairs. With a solid foundation set and with prudent financial policies in place, our Club has gone from strength to strength in recent years.

The last three Committees have been able to devise and enact an impressive process of improving and upgrading many areas of our Clubhouse and its grounds. We were also fortunate to stop the roller coaster of General Manager appointments when we took the decision to appoint Khun Prem as the first Thai and the first female General Manager of the British Club. Her team have formed the backbone of driving the Club forwards and the Club has truly experienced three excellent years.

THREE OUT OF THREE EXCELLENT YEARS

It will come as no surprise to our Membership to note that our last, the third, financial year has proved to be the BEST YEAR ever experienced by the Club. In a recent article we highlighted the fact that our Membership level now stands at an all time high at the time of writing today it is 1121.

Our finances have never been so strong. At the financial year-end 31st November 2014 our Cash at Bank, despite all the investments made throughout the year of 5.9 million baht, had increased from approximately 21 million baht to approximately 31.3 million baht.

Over the last three years the General Committees have made a conscious effort to drive improvements and upgrades to the Club aimed at improving the British Club experience for all our Members in general and not just to satisfy the needs of a few and within a prudent financial policy of building in financial buffers.

None of this would have been possible without the excellent performance of our Staff under the



Phil Alexander

Chairman,
General Committee

outstanding management of Khun Prem our General Manager. There is no doubt that our Club has improved vastly in both appearance, day-to-day operations, functions and financial strength over the last three years.

That said, the Management and the Committee are well aware of the constant need for improvements and fine tuning in the operations of the Club. I often wonder in amazement how Khun Laak and her team cater for such large events. Christmas Day was truly amazing with over 540 Members and their guests having a superb time with an enormous amount of food available.

FULL SPEED AHEAD ...

WITHIN A PRUDENT FINANCIAL POLICY

As the AGM draws near (24th March 2015), Members are still seeing a lot of activity around the Club with some additional upgrades and improvements being made all of which should be complete and operational by mid-March.

- A new building, which will be heavily landscaped, is being built on an unused area of land. This will house separate men's and women's toilet facilities and a changing-room area with showers for users of the multi-purpose court. As the Back Lawn often caters for up to 400 people (or more as at Guy Fawkes Night and on Christmas Day), it is unquestionably necessary to urgently provide toilet facilities to reduce the number of people using the limited Clubhouse toilet facilities to the detriment of Members



- The Pavilion coffee shop is nearly complete and is being built on a small totally unused area (save for some very old shacks which were demolished) between the Tennis Courts and Surawongse Road. This area will be well landscaped and incorporates a beautiful waterfall and upgraded spirit house



- Work to source a much-needed and integrated POS and Membership system has started and will be handed on to the new GC and Management to finalise the options and implement
- The cricket nets are undergoing a complete revamp with an increase in height and brand new playing areas
- For golfers we have looked at investing in a state of the art golf simulator which will be housed in an area of the proposed Silom Sala Integrated scheme. This will be an added attraction for our golfing community and many other interested Members
- Much-needed and long overdue refurbishment of the Staff House is essential and Management is finalising plans in this area.
- The back lawn will get a full makeover in a few months

UPCOMING EGM ... THE SCENE IS SET

For much of the last 11 months the General Committee has been spending time on the Silom Integrated Scheme, which is the last remaining area of the Club to receive an upgrade and refit. The increased use of the poolside and the frenzy at weekends is testament to how much this area needs development, and how important it is to provide improved and extended facilities to our Members, their families and their guests. Some of these buildings are close to 60 years old and are in urgent need of attention. The Committee believed that now was the opportunity to build for the long-term and to produce excellent facilities for all Members, their families and the Club's sporting community.

As most of you will appreciate, a large amount of work has been undertaken by some of the GC, the Management, our consultant Architects and a QS firm to produce all the relevant information that Members need to make an informed decision to vote on this ambitious plan on the 23rd March.

Some Members of the General Committee have devoted a great deal of their personal time to create a base scheme with some alternatives, and they deserve many thanks for their dedication and input. We recognise that Members may have differing views on the form and shape of the developments, but this work is being undertaken for the Membership as a whole.

I hope that by the time you read this the Members will already have decided to proceed with these works which could be built over a 12 to 18 month period as we must preserve the financial buffer of around 10 million baht at all times.

UPCOMING AGM

24th March 2015, only a few weeks away

Yes it is that time of the year again will it be "out with the old and in with the new" as some splinter groups want? Or will the membership decide to maintain the momentum amassed over the last three years in the interests of all rather than a few? Who knows! But I would ask all those who are entitled to vote on this important evening to come along and make your voices and opinions heard.

In wrapping this article up, I feel a sense of pride in what has been achieved. My thanks go to those members of the GC who have supported me in our endeavours. We have worked hard to improve and enhance the overall environment of the British Club. We realise that it is impossible to please all of our Members all of the time but our Management and staff are doing their utmost to serve us the Members. They are very proud to be part of this great establishment and that is evident from their enormous work efforts in maintaining the Club and grounds to the highest of standards.

Those that know me well understand my passion, total commitment to and love of the British Club. The long hours that I devote are from a belief that we are building a stronger and better Club for the enjoyment of all. I am well aware that there are some small groups who feel otherwise. That of course is their right, although it saddens me to witness the depths to which some Members will sink in pursuit of their own agenda

The Club is in excellent hands with Khun Prem and her team so I will conclude by extending a very special thank you to them all and to you the Members for supporting me during my time on the Committee.

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LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Premrudee Tanyaluck

General Manager

In February there was a very good turnout for Quiz Night, Pancake Day and the Chinese New Year celebrations which included the Dim Sum Buffet & the Lion Dance afterwards which was held on the Front Lawn. Throughout the month, the weekends were very busy for all our outlets which is good although sometimes at peak moments the food and service becomes slow as a result. We are trying to overcome this with part-time staff and scheduling, so I hope you understand it is being addressed.

In March there is the One Direction concert, four tickets still available, St. Patrick's Day and UK Mother's Day buffets, as well as our monthly Wine Tasting. You can check details on our website and make reservations with events staff by email or through our Reception desk.

This month has also seen some Club maintenance. We have replaced the tiles at the front entrance of the Clubhouse as they were cracked, broken and slippery; these works caused some inconvenience which I hope was not too serious. We also replaced the fencing of the back tennis courts with new netting which should be a durable improvement, and we simultaneously provided the new netting at the front of the Multi-Purpose Court. The Cricket Nets are currently getting new carpet flooring, and the height of the nets is being adjusted, all of this will take about two weeks to finish.



On the Back Lawn, the toilets and changing room block will be finished soon, hopefully the middle of March, which will be very useful for our functions and sports activities which often overload the Clubhouse toilets. The new café will be completed during the first weeks of March and we plan to open it soon afterwards. This means our renovations or maintenance works will finish before this year's AGM.

The 2015 AGM will be held on Tuesday 24th March - please do attend this as it is important for our Ordinary and Country Members to have their say in the running of the Club. It will start at 7pm in the Surawongse Room. If you would like any document for the meeting, or proxy forms if you cannot attend, please contact Reception or ask a member of staff.

Thank you for supporting our Club; I look forward to seeing you here soon. Have a wonderful month.

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah	11am - 2pm, 5pm - 10pm (Mon-Thurs) 11am - 10pm (Fri-Sun and Public Holidays)		
1910 Balcony	3pm - 11pm (Afternoon Tea 3pm - 5pm)		
Accounts Office	9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri), Closed (Sat-Sun)		
Neilson Hays Coffee Shop	9am - 6pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)
Churchill Bar	10am - 12midnight	Fitness Centre	6am - 9pm (Sat-Sun)
Poolside Bar	6:15am - 11pm Last food orders 9:30pm	Thai Massage	10am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)

Come and treat a mother on this Special Day



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

UK MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday 15 March 2015

Special Brunch

The Verandah, 11am - 3pm

Complimentary glass
of sparkling wine
for Mothers having brunch

Adults Bt 595

Kids up to 12yrs Bt 350

Adults (plus bottle of Wine of the Month) Bt 1,200

Sign up in Reception or by email to : events@britishclubbangkok.org

HAPPENINGS

February has been a rather strange month with most of the events all falling in the middle fortnight. In a way this has been quite suitable for the other tasks around the Club, as well as getting information prepared and then uploaded and posted on the website. The front page has suffered slightly, but that should be complete again soon once this issue is put to bed and the 2015 Yearbook (which is being prepared in parallel) is sent off to print.

We had a fantastic turnout for Quiz Night, more teams in fact than would fit in the usual venue of The Verandah. So we moved upstairs to the Surawongse Room which was relatively full but would have felt better with another couple of teams as you can see from the photo review near the back of this issue. It was a fun evening, with a relatively new team almost winning and a well-established team almost losing, both of which are always a surprise and lend to the enjoyment.

There was also a good turnout for the Members Gathering, although we were a bit disappointed that more of the new Members joining over the last six months couldn't make it. Even so, with some brilliant solo guitarist music backing the conversation, and some entertaining raffle prizes presented by Khun Prang and Khun Kamon, it was a good evening and great to see so many spritely long-termers at the Club. This is also photo reviewed a couple of pages further on in this issue.

As Khun Laak mentions on her page, it was sad that we couldn't do the Valentine's Day Dinner, and as luck would have it, after cancelling the dinner with enough warning to not cause too much inconvenience, it turned out there were some couples who were planning on turning up and hadn't booked - we really need to know for any event what sort of numbers to expect, so please at least drop me an email or book through Reception so we can anticipate the attendance. I hope you all ended up having a romantic and delightful Valentine's Day wherever you were.

Then last weekend there was Pancake Day with fabulous pancake races, delicious pancakes, and a great deal of fun for the kids who may be unaware of why Pancake Day even exists. There's more fun coming up this weekend with our 3rd year of having a Lion Dance on the Front Lawn to celebrate Chinese New Year, after the Dim Sum Buffet, and the day after that is the EGM, so it's been quite a fortnight and the big reward of course



Jeremy de Sausmarez

**Events & Marketing
Manager**

is that the end of next week is Wine-Tasting which falls on payday this month, and that's good news indeed!

Next month, March, kicks off with St David's Day which inspired the choice of cover for Outpost this month as the photo I was going to use didn't get cleared so at the last minute I had to choose something else pertinent, and what more so than a daffodil, so beautiful in clumps (and cause of the first job I got paid for, gathering dead-heads for my granny). The St David's Society Bangkok are bringing the Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir here for an evening of music (see p12) with a jazz duo too. There's the One Direction concert mid-month, a special buffet on UK Mothers Day, and the amazing green buffet on St Patrick's Day. And of course there is the A.G.M. which is always diverting and brings to the Club faces we haven't seen for some time.

Easter is the first weekend of April, and this year we'll be having more eggs hidden around the Back Lawn as well as an extra bit of entertainment all on Easter Sunday 5th April. By then the new lavatories block will be completed and (hopefully) in use on the Back Lawn. It became so apparent last year at Guy Fawkes that busy events out the back were woefully under-served by the Clubhouse washrooms, and a number of subsequent occurrences prompted this new facility into being created in an area of the lawn which was never used - I'm really pleased as I know how many Mums, their kids, and Members were frustrated by the difficulty of getting a bit of porcelain when most needed!

April also brings Songkran, of course, splash splash shriek, and towards the end of the month the Club's Birthday Party which to answer a number of you will also include a Car Boot Sale/Jumble Sale area, so start collecting all that stuff you want to unload on deluded buyers!

Lastly, thanks for making more effort with parking, it's got much better which has been helpful - have a good month and welcome to Spring! (does anyone remember Daffadowndilly by AA Milne?)



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Business Luncheons



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

2nd March - 6th March 2015

Starters - 55 baht

Waldorf Ham Salad *or* Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 140 baht

Mini Steak Served with Mixed Vegetables, Roast Potatoes and Gravy Sauce

or

Pan-fried Dory Fish with Mornay Sauce Served with Broccoli and Mashed Potatoes

Grilled -Chicken Breast Tarragon Creame Sauce Served with French Beans, Carrot and Sautéed Potatoes

or

Tom Kha Gai (A Refreshing Coconut Milk Soup with Chicken and Herbs)

Phad Kraprao Moo Sab (Stir-fried Minced Pork with Hot Basil and Chilli)

Phad Tua Ngok Tao Hoo (Stir-fried Bean Sprouts with Bean Curd and Oyster Sauce)

9th March - 13th March 2015

Starters - 55 baht

Mozzarella, Mango, Tomato and Rocket Salad *or* Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 140 baht

Salmon Fish Cakes Served with Chips, Garden Peas and Tartare Sauce

or

Chicken Stew in Red Wine Sauce, French Onion, Peas, Carrot and Mashed Potato

or

Fillet of Pork in a Light Curry Sauce Served with Grilled Zucchini and Coriander Rice

or

Gaeng Jued Phak Gard Khao (Chinese Lettuce Soup with Minced Pork, Tofu and Vermicelli)

Pla Sam Ros (Deep-fried Dory Fish Topped with Sweet and Sour Spiced Sauce)

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

16th March - 20th March 2015

Starters - 55 baht

Carrot, Raisin and Apple Coleslaw *or* Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 140 baht

Chicken Maryland with Pineapple, Banana, Sweet Corn, Bacon and Home-fried Potatoes

or

Pan-fried Dory Fish in Orange and Butter Sauce Served with French Beans, Carrot and Mashed Potatoes

or

B.B.Q. Pork Neck Served with Mixed Salad and Baked Potatoes

or

Tom Kha Gai (A refreshing Coconut Milk Soup with Chicken and Herbs)

Phad Kraprao Moo Sab (Stir-fried Minced Pork with Hot Basil and Chilli)

Phad Tua Ngok Tao Hoo (Stir-fried Bean Sprouts with Bean Curd and Oyster Sauce)

23rd March - 27th March 2015

Starters - 55 baht

Smoked Fish Salad with Lime and Chilli dressing *or* Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 140 baht

Mixed Sausage with Mashed Potatoes and Fried Onion

or

Turkey and Mushroom Pie with Mixed Vegetables and Home-fried Potatoes

or

Grilled Sea Bass Served with Spinach Risotto

or

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

Gai Phad Khing (Stir-fried Chicken with Ginger, Onion and Fungus Mushrooms)

Tod Mun Pla (Deep-fried Fishcakes)

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

F&B MORSELS

February has been a good month, but I was disappointed that we had to cancel the Valentine's Day Dinner as so few people booked. As the 4 course menu included lobster and snowfish and tenderloin it was not possible to get all the ingredients in small quantities and maintain the competitive price. Next year we will plan ahead more.

The Members Gathering evening was good and Pancake Day was a great success too. We are now getting ready for Dim Sum Buffet, steaming all the parcels is hot work.

Next month the new coffee shop will be opening and I hope Members enjoy it, under the trees looking over the tennis courts. We will be doing more items for take-away including pickled gherkins and pesto sauce. Also next month there is a special buffet on the UK's Mothers Day, and as always on St Patrick's Day we have a Green Buffet with some unusual dishes, and green beer too for those who want!

I am working on revising the Thai menu but I don't think it will be finished in March - hopefully for April



Khun Laak

Executive Chef

in time for the Songkran holidays and Easter too. I have included Clam Chowder back on the Specials Menu and am pleased that Cornish Pasties are proving popular. I have received a big compliment about the 'Chocolate Pudding with Vanilla Ice Cream' so try it out!

During peak periods at weekends the kitchens get very busy and our staff work as fast as possible but try to maintain standards. This means food can take a while and sometimes mistakes are made. We apologise for this and seek your understanding at the busy times we are all doing our best for you.

Happy Eating!



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK



Cocktail of the Month

March



TEQUILA SUNRISE



— Only —
Bt 100 —

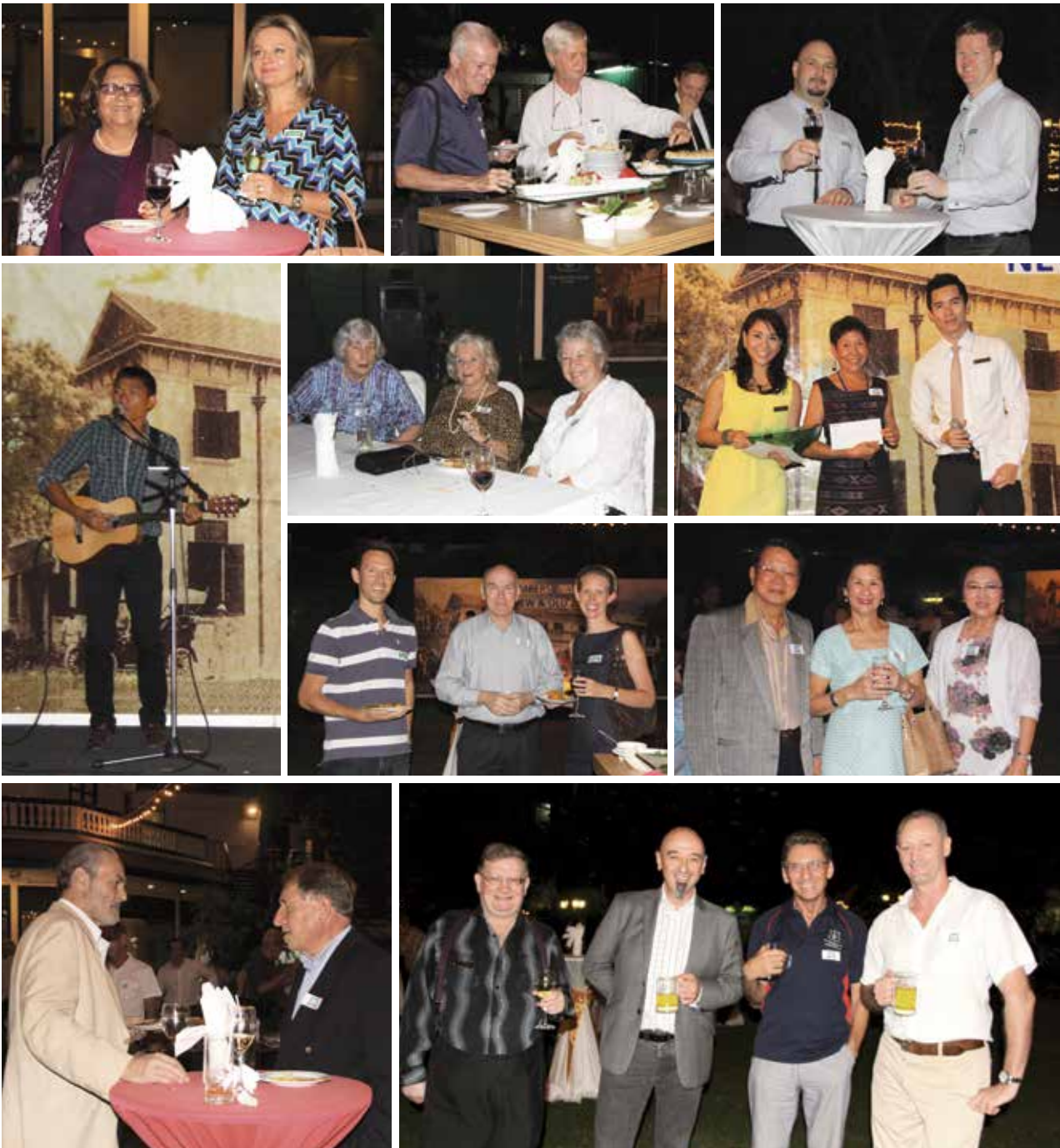
Don't forget Afternoon Tea is available from 3 pm !

SOME INVITED EVENING

Members Gathering 2015

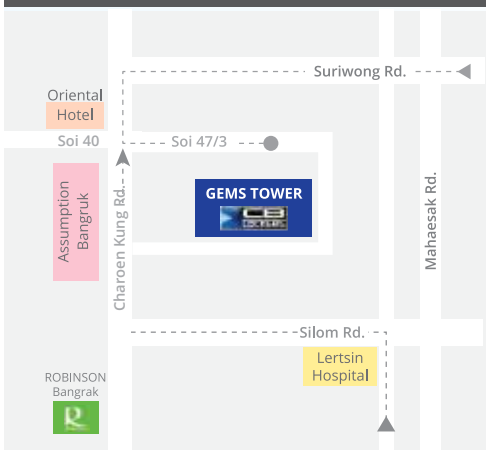
The Spring gathering of Club Members newly-joined and long-term was held on Wednesday 11th February on the Back Lawn, with a few GC Members and Section Heads on hand too. It was a balmy evening, not least of all due to the weather. The great spread of canapés and the open bar brought old friends together, laughing and chatting, whilst others stood and spoke in earnest. There was a convivial and genuine atmosphere, aided by the excellent Jay with his guitar, with his usual range of songs that are just right for such an evening.

At 8pm, the Chairman welcomed the crowd and was followed by Khun Prang and Khun Kamon presenting the winners of the evening's prizes, the top one being a stay in The Legend Chiang Rai. The evening culminated with a photo session of 40+ years, 30+ years, and 20+ years. In the end everyone got on stage, and snaps taken for posterity. Thank you all for coming!





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A night of MUSIC on the LAWN

Saturday March 7th

18:00 for drinks followed by 19:00 BBQ
on the lawn of the British Club (Silom 18)

Featuring:

Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir

Jazz Duo

Tickets in advance: 1800 Baht

Pay bar or corkage fee for your own wine

Email or fill out this form <http://goo.gl/forms/2vOQpHv00T>

St. David's Society Bangkok
infosdsbangkok@gmail.com



YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!



The next General Committee of the Club will be chosen at the 2015 Annual General Meeting on March 24th and must consist of between eight and ten persons who meet the following requirements of our Constitution & Rules, and the Thai Civil & Commercial Code:

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

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

The legalities are one thing, however it is **having enough time** that is the most essential aspect of any candidate.

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

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

Paul Cheesman
Honorary Secretary
2000-2003, 2006-2008, 2010-2015.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

ordinary & country members
are urged to attend

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015 7PM, SURAWONGSE ROOM

PAST PARTICIPLE

Auspiciam Melioris AEvi



Paul Cheesman

We look back to the history of our Club in 2008 ...

1 The year for the Tennis Section did not start well when they were informed that their request for Allocation of Funds had been refused. It was argued that the section was sitting on a mountain of funds so did not need any additional monies. This affront was slightly compounded when the GC then decided not to go ahead with resurfacing the two front courts as the quotations had ranged from 3.6 MBaht to a staggering 11.0 MBaht and the 1.1 MBaht upgrade of the tennis lighting was put on hold until the courts situation was resolved. At this stage Tennis Players threatened to boycott the Club.

The incoming GC then decided to build a new All-Weather Court on the back lawn and make all four tennis courts 'hard' (Courts 2 & 3 were previously artificial grass) and to change the make of surface. (This led somehow to tennis players telephoning customers of the named contractors in an attempt to retain the existing contractor). The new Chairman of the General Committee took umbrage with the section and castigated them for "failing to abide by the rules and bylaws of the club" and after a very heated email correspondence **the GC disbanded the Tennis Section**, took back their bank balance and placed the new Sports & Recreation Manager, Reed Passmore, in charge of running tennis. The saga had not ended by year end (nor for that matter the next year's end either!).

2 One of the first aims of the incoming General Committee (besides upsetting the tennis section) was to improve Club operation so eight sub-committees or Special Interest Groups were formed each with a champion to lead them. The Communications Special Interest Group was led by the Chairman of the General Committee who decided that Outpost should be less frequent and go to a wider, external audience and that a new publication the 'BCB Announcer' was created to fill the monthly gap - both to be done in-house. Unfortunately neither plan worked well and within months the 'BCB Announcer' was gone and Outpost back in the hands of an outside supplier.

3 The Development Special Interest Group did well, however, and its first major achievement was the building of the All-Weather Court on the site of the old 'back lawn rubbish area' [current site of the new Multi-Purpose Court build in 2013]. This court hosted its first event being the STC Balut Interport tournament in the November (see below) and led to the re-founding of the soccer section as well as use by the Thai Stix, Canadian ball hockey squad.

4 As a result of the founding in 2007 of the Balut Section (see last month), it was asked to host the 28th STC Interport Balut tournament, a pan-Asian Balut tournament founded in the Singapore Town Club in 1981. To run this major event the 28th Organising Committee was formed of 'T.C.', 'Swampy', 'Mr. C', 'Bowling Ball', 'The Squire', 'Slowpoke' and 'Jammy'. A fellow Balut player, 'DQ' (often wrongly nicknamed 'Kweenie') created for the tournament, and subsequently for international use, the first ever internet based Balut scoring system (see www.teambalut.com) and so on 21st November we were as ready as we would ever be for the Club's first major international sports tournament.

Danny Pruce, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy, opened proceeding which attracted 29 teams from 15 Members' Clubs around South East Asia, and with guests amounted to 142 attendees plus three Club Members acting as officials. As host Club Khun Laak, our Executive Chef, provided a lavish welcome buffet on the Friday, a Thai luncheon on the Saturday followed by an International Buffet dinner. As play commenced under the watchful eye of 'Jammy', Khun Prem (Deputy General Manager) and her accounting team meticulously added up each and every score sheet (amazing how many Balut players thought 18 and 14 equals 36) and finally we had a winner ... well three-quarters of a winner ... in the Royal Brunei Yacht Club. They had turned with only three players so one BCB Member played as a substitute. A great time was had by all but sadly a political uprising close to the airport prevented many of the 104 overseas players and guests from getting home but most enjoyed their extended stay and all got home eventually!

5 Lots of other things happened in 2008: The Billiard table was reinstated in the Clubhouse as the experiment of a pool table was taking less money; In February smoking was banned inside the Clubhouse; The POS system came on-line but (as was found out later) it did not interface with our Club Management Accounting System! In the August, we agreed to a request of the Nielson Hays Library to service their new café as it had been designed without a kitchen; membership grew to 1,038 and finally a number of development plans were created by the General Committee ... and as usual you will to wait until next month to find out what!



"Welcome all Baluters"



'T.C.', 'Swampy', 'Mr.C', Bowling Ball', 'The Squire', 'Slowpoke' and 'Jammy'

The author is Honorary Secretary of the Club

'RULES BRITANNIAE'

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

BRINGING IN FOOD

DID YOU KNOW... Food and other refreshments, with the exception of special dietary foods such as baby formulae, may not be brought into the Club or consumed on the premises except as authorised by the General Committee. On such occasions a food charge may be levied.



SEE BYLAW 8 (F).

BC Calendar March 15



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

<p>2</p> <p>BWG Mahjong 10am - 1pm </p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p> <p>Monday Night Movie 7:30pm Wordsworth Lounge 'THE WILD BUNCH' </p>	<p>3</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 7:30pm </p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm </p>	<p>4</p> <p>Ladies Tennis Coaching 9am - 10:30am </p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm </p>
<p>9</p> <p>BWG Mahjong 10am - 1pm </p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p> <p>Monday Night Movie 7:30pm Wordsworth Lounge 'THE PETRIFIED FOREST' </p>	<p>10</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 7:30pm </p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm</p> <p>Quiz Night 7.15pm, The Verandah </p>	<p>11</p> <p>Ladies Tennis Coaching 9am - 10:30am </p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm </p>
<p>16</p> <p>BWG Mahjong 10am - 1pm </p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p> <p>Monday Night Movie 7:30pm Wordsworth Lounge 'SCARFACE' </p>	<p>17</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 7:30pm </p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm</p> <p>St. Patrick Day The Verandah </p>	<p>18</p> <p>Ladies Tennis Coaching 9am - 10:30am </p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm </p> <p>Balut Shield Night 7pm </p>
<p>23</p> <p>BWG Mahjong 10am - 1pm </p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p> <p>Monday Night Movie 7:30pm Wordsworth Lounge 'THE LOST WEEKEND' </p>	<p>24</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 7:30pm </p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm</p> <p>Annual General Meeting 7pm Suriwongse Room </p>	<p>25</p> <p>Ladies Tennis Coaching 9am - 10:30am </p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm </p>
<p>30</p> <p>BWG Mahjong 10am - 1pm </p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p> <p>Monday Night Movie 7:30pm Wordsworth Lounge 'GENEVIEVE' </p>	<p>31</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 7:30pm </p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm </p>	

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<p>5</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 9:45pm</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  <p>Junior Tennis Coaching 4pm - 6pm</p> <p>Kids' Movie 6.30pm, Silom Sala 'KUNG FU PANDA 2'</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am</p> <p>French Buffet 11:30am - 3pm 5pm - 9pm The Verandah</p>  <p>Poolside BBQ 5pm - 9pm Silom Sala</p> 	<p>1/8 Swimming Lessons 9:30am - 10:30am</p> <p>Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am</p>  <p>Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 3pm</p>  <p>Open Pairs Bridge 2pm Silom Room</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 9:45pm</p>  <p>F&B Work Group 3pm, The Alcove</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  <p>Junior Tennis Coaching 4pm - 6pm</p> <p>Kids' Movie 6.30pm, Silom Sala 'ARISTOCATS'</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am</p> <p>Tex-Mex Buffet 11:30am - 3pm 5pm - 9pm The Verandah</p>  <p>Poolside BBQ 5pm - 9pm Silom Sala</p> 	<p>15 Swimming Lessons 9:30am - 10:30am</p> <p>Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am</p>  <p>UK Mother's Day 11:30 - 3pm</p>  <p>Open Pairs Bridge 2pm Silom Room</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 9:45pm</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  <p>Junior Tennis Coaching 4pm - 6pm</p> <p>Kids' Movie 6.30pm, Silom Sala 'RISE OF THE GUARDIANS'</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am</p> <p>Italian Buffet 11:30am - 3pm 5pm - 9pm The Verandah</p>  <p>Poolside BBQ 5pm - 9pm Silom Sala</p> 	<p>22 Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am</p> <p>Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 3pm</p>  <p>Open Pairs Bridge 2pm Silom Room</p> 
<p>26</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 9:45pm</p> 	<p>27 Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p> <p>Wine Tasting 6pm - 9pm Suriwongse Room</p>  <p>Junior Tennis Coaching 4pm - 6pm</p> <p>Kids' Movie 6.30pm, Silom Sala 'RIO'</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am</p> <p>Special Curry Lunch & Dinner 11:30am - 3pm 5pm - 9pm The Verandah</p>  <p>Poolside BBQ 5pm - 9pm Silom Sala</p> 	<p>29 Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am</p> <p>Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 3pm</p>  <p>Open Pairs Bridge 2pm Silom Room</p> 



EVERY SATURDAY
5pm - 9pm
Suriwongse Sala

DAFFADOWNDILLY

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."

THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY

by Mike Staples

Hugh Wilson was 23 years old on conscription into the Sherwood Foresters Regiment of the British Army at the start of WW II. He met his great pal Alf Lee very early on and they were to remain close throughout what was to come their way. Shipped off to Singapore in 1942 they were captured and sent to Banpong to work on what was to become the infamous Thai-Burma Railway.

Hugh and Alf worked at some of the worst camps and suffered the horrors, cruelty and deprivation so well documented now but this story is not about the railway; it is about something else entirely. Once the railway was completed, the Japanese selected groups of "fit" prisoners to go to Japan to work, so Hugh and Alf were 2 of 1,317 POWs crammed into the hold of a freighter, Rakuyo Maru, sailing in convoy for Japan on September 6th 1944.

A wolf pack of US submarines had slipped into place near Hainan on the 31st August 1944; Growler, Pampanito and Sealion, made up the pack ready to disrupt Japanese shipping and within days they found a Japanese convoy.

In the early hours of the 12th September 1944, the wolf pack attacked. Sealion sank a tanker which spilled oil into the sea, before being driven off by depth charging from the escorts. One of the transports which they hit at daybreak was a freighter, carrying a type of cargo that the captain of The Sealion had no way of knowing about. It was the Rakuyo Maru full of 1,317 allied POWs.

Few were killed by the torpedo impacts and most Japanese fled over the side in the life boats leaving the POWs on their own. They lowered the sick onto anything that would float before the fitter men jumped into the water. A few POWs used the opportunity to settle scores and it wasn't long before some Japanese guards lay about the deck battered and bloodied. Two POWs swam round the area and drowned as many Jap guards as they could find before they too drowned from exhaustion.

Elated at their release, many POWs sang Rule Britannia but a Japanese boat roved the area looking for their own survivors and any POW who got close had a gun pointed at them and some were stabbed by bayonets. It was just as well few if any got picked up because within half an hour, the Japanese escort frigate blew up.

An ordeal of a different kind then began. The sunken oil tanker had spread oil all round the area and as night fell men covered in oil were slipping off the rafts. As the next day broke, Hugh and Alf spent all day helping men back on to the rafts and listening to the cries of men taken by sharks or drowning.

In a haze of thirst and despair with nothing to eat or drink there are reports that some men cut up Japanese bodies to drink their blood. The Rakuyo Maru was sunk on the 12th September so by the morning of the 15th, rafts had drifted apart and men were scattered. In the afternoon of the 15th, Hugh heard a sound, both worrying and exciting at the same time. It was the sound of approaching engines.

At 17:08, Sealion had received a request from the U.S.S. Pampanito to assist with the rescue of allied POWs; Pampanito having gone back to survey damage, came across some of the POWs. As Sealion steamed

The U.S.S. Sealion – SS315



towards the area 40 miles north of the attack, lookouts spotted debris and then at 18:31, the first signs of life. Small groups of bedraggled men, covered in oil, clinging to floating debris were dotted all around as the crew of the submarine looked on in disbelief before hauling men aboard.

They pulled in 54 men including Hugh, before nightfall and the threat of enemy ships made Eli Reich, the captain, decided to depart for Saipan. His records show that he was heartbroken at leaving but his first duty would always have been to protect the boat and his crew.

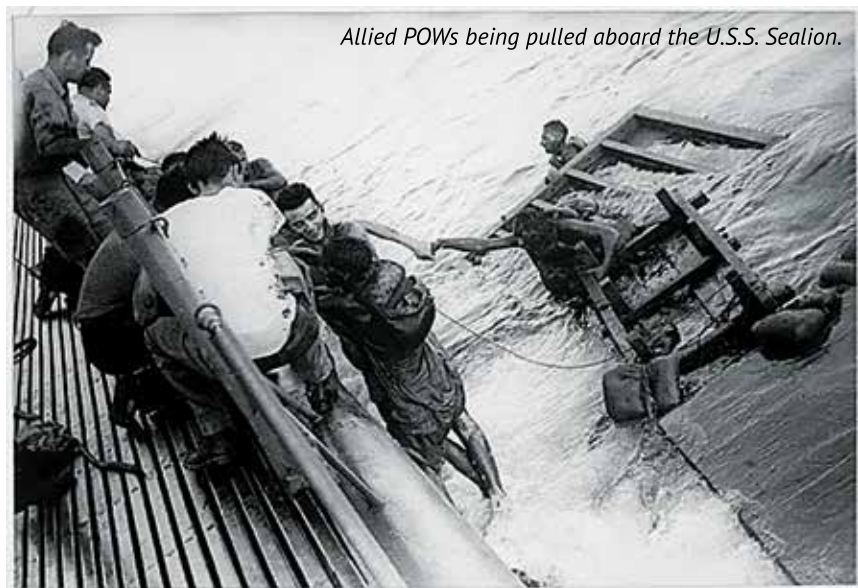
The medical orderly tended to one man who was still making the motions of treading water after he had been hauled aboard and once told he could stop, he promptly died. It seems he might have been treading water for so long that stopping simply shut down his will to live. Three more men died so Sealion delivered 50 rescued men to Saipan. The other subs delivered 102 men some of whom had spent six nights afloat without sustenance. In all, 152 men made it into Allied hands, about 136 were picked up by Japanese ships and did more time as slave labourers, so about 1,029 British and Australian men did not make it. One can only imagine the ways in which they perished in the South China Sea, but depth charges, drowning and sharks would account for many.

The survivors were shipped back to the USA where they were met by Admiral Nimitz, clearly taking the whole incident very seriously. Hugh reports that Nimitz cried when he learned of the loss of over 1,000 men from a “friendly fire” incident. The US navy cannot be faulted for the tragedy as the Japanese had not marked the ship as carrying POWs so the subs did not know what they were firing at. The Japanese had again demonstrated their utter disregard for international agreements.

The British were shipped home on the Queen Mary to a strange but predictable reception. Unlike their welcome

in the USA, they were debriefed, given a rail pass home and ordered to report back for rehabilitation. Hugh Wilson simply walked from Lewisham station to his house, upsetting his wife as she had not had time to put make-up on to greet him.

The worst part of Hugh’s ordeal must have been parting from his mate Alf Lee. They had been through tough times together and finally clinging to their raft, covered in oil, eyes burning and throats swollen from the oil fumes and lack of water, Alf slipped off several times and had no strength to get back on. Hugh clasped Alf’s arm for as long as he could before Alf slipped away and drowned; a mere 1 hour before Sealion returned to rescue the men. But for 60 minutes, Alf might have survived.



Allied POWs being pulled aboard the U.S.S. Sealion.

Alf had made Hugh promise to deliver his wedding ring back to his wife if he didn’t make it and so Hugh went round only to find that Alf’s wife had assumed him to be dead and taken up with an R.A.F. officer. Hugh’s only comment was: “Alf could never win”, but it must have hurt Hugh’s feelings.

Hugh Wilson lived on to a ripe old age and was one of a handful of people to escape Japanese captivity during the Second World War. (Hugh Wilson was my father’s first cousin).

Mike Staples has been a BC Member for nearly 20 years. Recently he has spent considerable time researching his family history, in particular their involvement in both World Wars.

DON'T BACK DOWN



Our society is becoming less physically active; we sit longer hours in front of the computer or lounge on the couch in detrimental postures. Often we don't think about our body and its functions until it aches or we are restricted in our movement. Few things are more important for our independence than our ability to move around freely and without pain. Spinal health problems therefore can be a serious restriction to our freedom. When the pain in your back stops you from enjoying an evening with friends, going for a walk in the park or having a good night's sleep, it is important to know where to find competent help.

The highly specialised Spine Centre at BNH Hospital has gained widespread recognition for their success in treating such issues. Imaging techniques such as X-rays, MRIs and CT scans as well as physical examination and the patient's medical history help to determine the best course of treatment. For minor or muscular issues, patients might be advised to start with more conservative treatments, such as physical therapy or medicine.

Pain that starts in the back and spreads down through the legs is often a sign of a pinched nerve in the lumbar spine, while pain located in the neck, shoulders and arms can be a sign of a pinched nerve in the cervical spine.



At the Spine Centre, surgeries are always a collaborative effort, carried out with doctors from multiple disciplines. The team includes spine specialists, a neurosurgeon, an anaesthesiologist and an orthopaedist. The group approach ensures the highest level of safety and consequently successful outcomes.

2015 CHAMPIONSHIP

**Men's
and
Women's
Singles
Doubles
and
Mixed**

**BRITISH CLUB
tennis**



Finals Sat 28 March

Starts Sat 17 January

Cup semi finals Sat 21 March

Plate semi finals Sun 22 March

Email: amnat@britishclubbangkok.org

BCB 1910 FANTASY FOOTBALL

120/80!



Bruce Madge

The above figures are the optimal blood pressure levels for a normal (whatever normal means!) healthy adult according to medical experts worldwide. Furthermore,



Optimal!

according to these experts, levels of 130/85 are considered normal, 130-139/85-89 is high-normal and anything above that is considered hypertension to varying degrees depending on how high the BP levels go. Now, high blood pressure is a very common complaint among many adults and there are numerous causes. Some of these include being overweight, a lack of any form of exercise, regular smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, like drinking large amounts of whisky every evening after work, as just one random example, or a lack of variety in one's diet. Stress can also raise BP levels. Stress can come from such sources as commuting



Avoid too much of this!



Could lead to hypertension!

long distances to work each day by car, for example, or doing a high-pressured job, such as being a manager, to highlight another purely random case.

So what has high BP, or hypertension, got to do with FF at the BCB? Well, quite a bit actually, as one of the BCB



Not good for the BP!

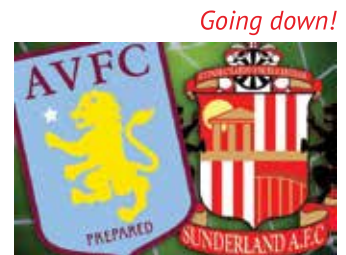


FF managers (me!) has recently been diagnosed with it owing to some of the causes mentioned above and, apparently, a few others already suffer from it, and even more are likely to as the FF season moves into its final few months. It will be the stress and the pressure that will raise the BP levels and those FF managers who will suffer the most are those battling for the title in our BCB 1910 League.

Things are very close and it's anyone's title at this stage. A few errant transfers could spell



Don't get like this!



Going down!

disaster and, equally, some clever wheeling and dealing and crafty team selections could easily mean the difference between tenth and first place. Any manager in the top 15 is in with a chance and that equals plenty of pressure, with Haroon and Phil liable to feel even more than others as their 'real' teams of Villa and Sunderland, respectively, are both in the EPL relegation fight. So with 15 Fantasy Football Gameweeks to go how does one go about avoiding hypertension brought on by the stress of being a FF manager? It's easy - eat well, exercise regularly, avoid smoking, remember it's only a game, and enjoy your beer!

Ok, but not every day!



Stress inducer!



Until next time when we discuss FF and child birth!

TENNIS



Tony Moore
BC Tennis Committee

BC Tennis Club Championships

This year's tennis club championships are progressing well with good progress in all competitions. We have got a good field of players this year and wish to remind everyone that the Semi's will be played on 21-22 March and the Finals on Saturday 28 March. Please arrange and play your matches as soon as possible as your public awaits!

A very special thank you to all our sponsors led by Sala Resort Hotels as Major Sponsor. The sponsors make the annual Club Championships an exciting event and provide great prizes.



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

Friendly Match

On Sunday 1 February, a friendly was organised by David Padgham and held at the BC with Hong Kong Ladies Recreation Club. 6 guys from HL LRC played against representatives of the BC including as well as David; Phairoj, Harold Mollin, Raymond Lewin, Pat Dean, Patana and Philip Mock. The BC team emerged victorious with some excellent wins and David/Harold playing in an extra 'decider' and winning 6-0! Well done to all.



Inter Club Mixed Doubles:

In the last inter-club match of 2014 in December, the BC team pictured here with all the teams came 5th in a very competitive day of tennis.



Ladies team captain Raquel was keen to ensure that the male partners understood their position in the mixed doubles !



SQUASHY BITS

Chiang Mai 2015



Neil Evans

Hi there, I'm Neil, the BCB Squash Section Captain, and I've been allowed to write this report on our recent Chiang Mai trip. I say 'allowed' because I've attempted a couple of squash reports before and both were disasters – poor grammar, and rife with spelling mistakes, or just plain boring, according to most that read them. I thought they were funny actually, but it seems no one else did. They often call me a wally or a plonker, because of things like wearing protective goggles when I play squash, but what do they know? I think it's sensible - I don't want to go blind if I get a ball in my eye. And they say I'm boring because my favourite band is Frankie Goes to Hollywood and that I'm a mummy's boy as I'm an only child. So what? I like Frankie. Welcome to the Pleasuredome is my all time favourite album of all time. It was Frankie's debut album released in 1984. It shaped my youth and I like it. I know what I like. And I can't help it if my parents didn't want any more kids after they'd had me. Not my fault, was it? I've always wondered why though. Did they take one look at me and think, "Enough!" I'll have to ask them.



Shaped my youth!

Anyway, I took a team of BCB squash players to Chiang Mai, which is a city in the north of Thailand, to join the annual cricket tour. Most of us flew there as that's the quickest route, but there is a road that goes there and a railway. But I flew with my wife, Raquel. We've been married for a long time and we have three children.



Two Tribes!

Now, about the squash - in my team I had Haroon, Dr. Nick White, young Ben and chubby Marc, John and me. That was six of us and the Chiang Mai Gymkhana Club also had six players so it was six on six. Well, Haroon, who has recently fallen in love, and is documenting it all on Facebook, won his match 3-0. He's a very good player so his opponent didn't stand a chance. If you haven't seen his Facebook posts, check them out, particularly the Valentine's ones. It's all lovey-dovey and jub-jub, which apparently means kiss-kiss in Thai.



Jub! Jub!

I say apparently as I haven't learnt any of the Thai language even though I've been living here for roughly 15 years. I'm more of a numbers and science man myself. I'm an engineer. Well, I've been teasing Haroon about his new romance and he claims I'm jealous. Nonsense! How could I be jealous - I'm happily married with three difficult and demanding children and, in any case, I still, know how to be equally as romantic. You just have to ask Raquel, for on Valentine's Day I took her to the pub to watch the Six Nations rugby with my mates. It was England versus Italy from Twickenham. Italy played very well and even scored the first try, and two others, but their kicking let them down and England eventually dominated them winning 47-17 and scoring six tries. It was a great match, very exciting, and a nice evening as Nick Mellor was there, and Jack, and Madge, and Marc, and a few other lads. And I really enjoyed having a few pints.



Valentine's Day with the Mrs!

Back to the squash - I won my match 3-0, but Marc lost his 3-2 as he's put on too much weight. He almost couldn't get through the door and onto the court! Nick won 3-1 and Ben and John both lost 3-0 so actually it turned out a 3-3 draw. That meant we had to do a count back regarding games won and that's where I came in as I'm good with figures as I mentioned before. I used

to give you any more details about the actual matches as Bruce, who usually writes this column, has told me that no one is really interested in that and would prefer to read wild tales, whether they be true or not, of what people get up to when they are off the court. Err, I'm not sure if I have the imagination or creative writing skills for that, but I'll have a go.

SEED NO	GYMKHANA	-V-	BRITISH CLUB	Score
1	OWEN	-V-	HAROON	0-3
2	WONG	-V-	NICK	0-3
3	TIM	-V-	MARC	3-2
4	LEE	-V-	NICK	1-3
5	NID	-V-	JOHN	3-0
6	CLEMENT	-V-	BEN	3-0
				<hr/>
				10-11

Won by one!

So, after the matches, which were played on the Friday night this year, instead of the usual Saturday afternoon, we went out for a few beers and got a bit hammered. I'd been of the beer all January so it was great to get back on it, but I was careful not to drink too much and upset the Mrs. Then the others went off into the night, and, according to the gossip, (I wasn't there as my wife doesn't let me go to places like this and I generally tend to obey her as it's easier that way.) some of them ended up in a sort of karaoke bar where young Ben pulled a girl who weighed more than him



Reclaimed!

my smart phone calculator for this and after double, and then triple, checking I worked out that we had won 11 games to 10 and so we reclaimed the Peter Corney Chiang Mai Challenge Trophy. I'm very proud of my team as you can probably see by my face. I'm not going



Ben's CM pull!

and Haroon combined, about as much as Marc currently does, I suppose, and where they ran up a bill of about 300 quid for food and drinks. Well, I'm glad I wasn't involved in that. Sounds too wild for me and Raquel would have been livid, anyway.

And that's about it. So thanks for reading.

Neil Evans, Squash Section Captain and Engineer.

The BCB Squash Section would like to acknowledge Boots Retail Thailand as its sponsor for 2015. Boots Retail Thailand kindly sponsored the 2014 Rod Carter Open, the BCB Squash Section's open squash competition, and has agreed to support the section throughout 2015. Boots Retail Thailand has numerous branches throughout the country supplying high quality cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Many thanks to Boots Retail Thailand.



HARD BALLS

Annual BBQ/ Awards Night January 17th:

One might not think that a team having lost 35 consecutive matches would have much to celebrate ... but this year's annual awards and BBQ was the usual raucous affair where incompetence was celebrated rather than fretted over. As always Rahul prepared a fabulous Indian style BBQ but numbers were a bit thin because the date clashed with our jewellery friends' annual trip to Pattaya. However, that meant for more generous vodka slammers and a night impossible to remember.

Speddo was undoubtedly the all-rounder of 2012/13 but since he wasn't there we didn't waste much time extolling his virtues. Dale was the undisputed Cricketer of the Year for scoring most runs, taking wickets, catches and stumpings and putting up with abuse from all and sundry throughout the year. Nick and Vaughan picked up the bowling and batting awards in Speddo's absence and from then on it was downhill.

Everyone was hauled up by Fines Master Nick and Hanging Judge Dunford, to receive dubious awards for the season's misdemeanours. In generous BC fashion, all visitors and WAGS were dragged into the fray and if I could remember, I would love to recall some of the highlights. However, I think my slammers were a wee bit on the big size and I don't remember much after receiving about my third award.



Jack Dunford



Dale Cricketer of the Year



Bowler of the Year Nick



Batsman of Year Vaughan



Phil joins in the fun



Mad as hatters

Chiang Mai Tour January 31/ February 1: We certainly didn't take our best team to Chiang Mai this year ... we rarely do. But we did have the regulars plus a few Newbies and Squashies to enthusiastically maintain the traditions of 33 years of touring. The Squash match was played on Friday evening for a change and amazingly BC won the Peter Corney Cup for the first time. Well done the Squashies ... the best bit being that it delayed the drinking by about an hour, but unfortunately for not long enough.

The next morning a slightly worse for wear, bizarrely bearded and be-fezed squad attempted to intimidate a team of bemused young Thai under-16 cricketers and a handful of rather older farang 'social cricketers'. Stand-

in Captain Sarg told us that the opposition were a bit weak and if we bowled them out quickly we would let the kids bat again.

Perhaps not unrelated to the amount of beer consumed the night before, 'weak' CMGC were 70 for no wicket after 5 overs!!! Although a stripped down and refurbished David Dance (2 for 22), Haroon (1 for 24) Steve (1 for 43) and Ben (1 for 14) then picked up wickets, there was never much chance any of the Thai youth would get a second knock. They finished their 25 overs on 189 for 6.

In reply Nick was immediately guilty of batting without due care and attention, strolling back for a second run, forgetting he was playing yoof ... the score 1 for 1. Then the CMGC captain played a masterly stroke by bringing on a lovely young 14 year old girl to bowl. Ben, Vaughan (20) and James (10) were all bedazzled and the score deteriorated 49 for 4! To be fair the CMGC did then try to get us back in the game by bowling some really juicy dibble-dobblers but most of the BC batsmen elected to whack these straight up in the air. David Dance scored a tidy 20 before caught wellying and there was an entertaining 8th wicket partnership between Patrick (17) and Adrian (27*), largely because Adrian was batting with H as a runner. 158 all out and a defeat by 31 runs sounds not too bad ... but it was!

Although it is not the best preparation for the big Dick Wood Cup match, tradition dictates that we all drink ourselves silly playing Fuzzy Duck and Fizz Buzz at the BBQ on Saturday Night ... and done it we did. And for a while I seemed like it wasn't a bad idea after all.

CMGC loaned us a couple of their young players to strengthen our injury-hit squad and after 3 overs they were 3 for 3, young Choo (2 for 21) and Nick (3 for 26) doing the damage. The grass wicket was much more difficult to bat on than the astroturf of Saturday, the fielding was good and all the BC bowlers bowled well ... except for a worrying leakage of wides. David Dance (1 for 20) bowled best and Haroon (1 for 22) and Yod (1 for 15) also got wickets. A score of 63 for 6 off 15 overs looked promising, but then CMGC batted well and the final score of 150 for 8 off 30 overs was rather flattering since there were 46 extras including surely a record 37 wides.

This looked like a good score and looked even better when BC got off to a turgid start of which a very ill looking, yooful Ben probably can't remember very much. Vaughany got out to a grubber and it was left to Nick (21), David Dance (37) star of the weekend, and



Choo (12) to haul us back into the game. But 86 for 5 off 21 overs was too slow. Adrian entertained the crowd realising he had forgotten to put on his pads only when taking guard, but otherwise BC calmly submitted, all out for 102, defeat by 44 runs ... not far off the number of extras conceded in the CMGC innings!

Often the most enjoyable bits of the tour are the after-match speeches, presentations and fines ceremony which involves drinking lots of beer and slammers, something at least at which BC excels. CMGC had made an effort to put out a like-minded social side and this was one of the most enjoyable sessions for years. The games had been played in great spirit and everyone enthusiastically joined in the nonsense. Well done Richard Lockwood and David Walker.

Next month, hopefully a more sober report as BC plays League Cricket for the first time in 20 years.



Unique **Green** Buffet

(Thai & International Dishes)

The Verandah

11am - 3pm / 5pm - 9pm

Adults Bt 495, Children Bt 310



Special St. Patrick's Day for Guinness



Sign up in Reception or by email to : events@britishclubbangkok.org

BCGS GOLFING NEWS

by Deb Farrar

It's been another busy month for the BC Golf Society with regulars and a few new faces making the most of this glorious weather.

The Monthly Medal at Royal, Lad Krabang was a tightly fought match for both Flight A & B. Coming out on top were Andy Flynn (winner Flight A) and Tony Moore (winner Flight B) Other prize winners were: Nearest the pins - Randall Coleman & Martin Weber, Longest put - Yurachatr Brook, Longest drives - Karen Holloway and Randall Coleman.

Lam Luk Ka was the setting for the long awaited Matchplay Final between Chris MacClarty and Tony Moore. After a very close game and plenty of 'water action' Chris came out triumphant 3 & 1. Congratulations to Chris from all!

February's Stableford competition will forever be remembered as "The Tale of Two Banditos" - How can a player achieve 45 points?? and, how can a player achieve 45 points and still not win!!!

Great fun followed the result announcement, with much ribbing of the 2 Banditos. Debate continued over a few beers & sympathy felt for Pete, the Handicap Secretary, who will be rather busy following this event.

Bandito number 1 with 46 points was Peter Thompson, Bandito number 2 with 45 points was Steve Monical.

Congratulations also to Fiona Weber who came in 3rd place with 39 more points - that's more like it!

Other prizes on the day went to: Pete Skinner - 2 nearest the Pins, Martin Weber - nearest the Pin. Longest drives - more winning balls for the Weber family collection, Fiona taking the ladies prize, Martin the mens.

We look forward to another month of competitions, the AGM dinner and watching those handicaps fall!



Medal Flight B
- Tony Moore



Longest put - Yurachatr



The 2 Banditos, Peter & Steve



Medal Flight A - Andy Flynn



Pete Skinner, Fiona & Martin Weber





THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

QUIZ NIGHT

May

*Tuesday
10th March
2015*

*With the
Monthly
Jackpot*

THE VERANDAH, 7:15pm

TEAMS OF 6 OR LESS
MEMBERS Bt 100, GUESTS Bt 150

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



OBSCURE INSIGHT

The monthly Quiz Night is usually held in The Verandah, but for the last few months the number of teams attending has made this uncomfortable. So this month extra bookings meant we had to move up to the Surawongse Room just to fit the tables in. Also this month there was a new prize: the Not Quite Losers prize, which would be awarded to the team achieving the penultimate place in scores at the end.

We've got a great set of regular teams and some that often come along. They were there in force plus a couple of new teams, to grapple with the remote obscure and sometimes very easy questions set by leuan our Quizmaster Extraordinaire. The rounds were: News, Numbers, History of the Novel, Geology, Rivers, and to give you an idea of what was being faced here's a sample question from each round:

Q: in the recent biography of Prince Charles, a friend claims that the heir to the throne has read only one novel in his life; what was it? A: (Anna Karenina)

Q: what number is considered unlucky in Italy, probably because in Roman numerals it's an anagram of the Latin 'to die'? 17 A: (xvii-vixi, which roughly means 'to have lived')

Q: which 19th century classic was published first out of Middlemarch, War and Peace, Frankenstein, Pickwick Papers? A: (Frankenstein)

Q: is Mount St. Helens active, dormant, inactive, or extinct? A: (Active)

Q: which African capital lies at the confluence of the Blue Nile and the White Nile? A: (Khartoum)

With 9 teams melding into 8, the heat was on. It was close, but Back Seat Drivers triumphed over Mozartkugeln and the legendary Spoofers team (only present in part) got the Not Quite Losers Prize. The Monthly Jackpot, which had been oomphed by Bt500, was foiled as nobody (well, nobody playing) recognised one of SF's Foundations from last century (see above).



BRIDGE

Results for January 2015

EVENT	RANK	NAME (PAIR)	SCORE%
Sunday 4th January (15 pairs)	N/S Winner:	Helmer & Michael	64.58%
	E/W Winner:	Prarop & Dr. Apithai	57.94%
Sunday 11th January (10 pairs)	1st	Mike & Prarop	64%
	2nd	Don & Rochelle	57%
Sunday 18th January (16 pairs)	N/S Winner	Jonathan & Audrie Sill	57.14%
	E/W Winner	Prarop & Dr. Apithai	63.39%
Sunday 25th January (11 pairs)	1st	Leo & Michael	71.35%
	2nd	Prarop & Dr. Apithai	61.98%



Selected and presented by
Mike Smith

March

Mondays, 7:30 pm, Wordsworth Lounge

2nd | THE WILD BUNCH *** 1969



Directed by: Sam Peckinpah
Starring: William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, Robert Ryan

An aging group of outlaws look for one last big score as the "traditional" American West is disappearing around them.

9th | THE PETRIFIED FOREST ** 1936



Directed by: Archie Mayo
Starring: Leslie Howard, Humphrey Bogart, Bette Davis

A waitress, a hobo and a bank robber get mixed up at a lonely diner in the desert.

16th | SCARFACE **** 1932



Directed by: Howard Hawks, Richard Rosson
Starring: Paul Muni, Ann Dvorak, Karen Morley

An ambitious and insanely violent gangster climbs the ladder of success in the mob, but his weaknesses prove to be his downfall.

23rd | THE LOST WEEKEND **** 1945



Directed by: Billy Wilder
Starring: Ray Milland, Jane Wyman, Phillip Terry

The desperate life of a chronic alcoholic is followed through a four day drinking bout.

30th | GENEVIEVE **** 1953



Directed by: Henry Cornelius
Starring: Dinah Sheridan, John Gregson, Kay Kendall

It's the annual London to Brighton antique car rally, and two friends try to humiliate each other in getting back to London first.

KIDS MOVIES MARCH



6th Mar
Kung Fu
Panda 2

27th Mar
Rio



13th Mar
Aristocats

Fridays
Silom
Sala



6 pm

20th Mar
Rise of the
Guardians

TAKE-AWAY



Did you know that most items on the Club's menus are available for take-away?

You can order in person from any outlet, straight from the menu.
Or order by telephone from the take-away menu on the website.

Bulk orders available from Khun Somboon.



WAWA

PAN

PINE

NONO

ICE

PAMMY

KHING

SONG

PHING

KHAORON

BABE

BRITHONG

ISABELLA

DESIRE

ART EXHIBITION

DATE: MARCH 16TH, 2015

STARTING AT 6:00pm

AUCTION PROCEEDS WILL GO TO CHARITY

CATERING BY GREYHOUND CAFE

AT KIS SECONDARY BUILDING

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PRACHA-UTIT ROAD, HUAY-KWANG

BANGKOK 10320, THAILAND