



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

Outpost

www.britishclubbangkok.org

March 2017

MTB IN CM!

COME AND TREAT A MOTHER ON THIS SPECIAL DAY!



UK MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY 26th MARCH 2017

-SPECIAL BRUNCH-

The Verandah, 11.30am - 3pm

Adults Bt 595
Kids Bt 350 (>12 yrs)



Adults plus Wine
of the Month Bt 1,150

Complimentary glass of House Wine for each Mother having Brunch

Book in Reception or by email : events@britishclubbangkok.org

We lay the finest foundations for the best start in life



HARROW
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
BANGKOK



Children at Harrow Bangkok thrive. Set on a 35-acre campus, following a bespoke curriculum blending the best of UK and international educational practice, our students have room to grow creatively and academically.

With newly built and expanded facilities, we have everything necessary on-hand to see the potential in your child and allow it to flourish. Extra-curricular activities are equally as important as the school day, to develop new skills in line with our ethos, Leadership for a better world.

In the Lower School, pupils study a bespoke Harrow Bangkok curriculum before moving through the school to study IGCSEs and A Levels, and onto the best universities around the world.

The acquisition of high-level English skills is a priority. With a recently enhanced curriculum, our aim is to ensure high standards of language and literacy by equipping students with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

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THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

**Tues 21st March
Surawongse Room
7pm**

**Ordinary & Country
Members urged to attend**

Mini Buffet from 5pm



**GENERAL COMMITTEE**

Chairman - Jack Dunford
chairman@britishclubbangkok.org

Vice Chairman - Ali Adam
vicechair@britishclubbangkok.org

Honorary Secretary - Dr Chris Stanford
honorary.secretary@britishclubbangkok.org

Honorary Treasurer - Geoffrey Banks

General Committee Members
 Robert Brand, Dr Nick Day, Colin Hastings,
 Adrian Salter, Andrew Spedding,
 Paul Williams
gc@britishclubbangkok.org

SENIOR MANAGERS

General Manager
 Premrudee Tanyaluck
gm@britishclubbangkok.org

Services & Functions Manager
 Somboon Chaiyaprom
somboon@britishclubbangkok.org

Events & Marketing Manager
 Jeremy de Sausmarez
jeremy@britishclubbangkok.org

Membership Sales Manager
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Duty Manager
 Hatthachai Sae-tang
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Executive Chef
 Kornnisara Nongku

Sports Manager
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Outlets Manager
 Kasem Modphai
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**FRONT COVER**

The road up the mountain to Doi Suthep is steep and riddled with hairpin bends. Bruce thought he would cycle down through the undergrowth on a mountain bike. It was not quite as smooth as he expected, as he recounts in this month's cover story on page 18, and he never fell off, not once!

EDITOR'S GREETING

This month's cover story features cycling over roots and rocky mountain terrain in Chiang Mai. What a challenge! The 'As It Was' regular double spread has changed, and this month documents an amazing episode of Jack Dunford's early work in S.E. Asia.

There's a book review for those who would like a deeper insight into Bangkok. And another special report from the Cricket Section.

Finally, congratulations to Queen Elizabeth II, now the longest reigning British monarch ever!

Ed



OUTPOST is the monthly publication of **THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK**, the social sports and cultural centre for the English-speaking community in Bangkok. A full version of the magazine is also available online at www.britishclubbangkok.org/outpost **Editor** - Jeremy de Sausmarez *jeremy@britishclubbangkok.org*
 Opinions expressed need not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at time of press. Outpost welcomes contributions from Members, email outpost@britishclubbangkok.org - No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the Publisher.

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MESSAGE FROM the Chairman



Jack Dunford

Chairman

Poolside Redevelopment:

Many thanks to everyone who attended the EGM on 31st January or voted by proxy. I am delighted that the General Committee has been given a clear mandate to proceed with the Silom Wing as the first part of Chapman Taylor's Poolside Redevelopment.

Proxy votes have always been controversial at the British Club with some Members arguing that only those willing to make the effort to attend general meetings and listen to the debate should deserve to vote. Maybe in the old days this was a valid argument but today Members have so many travel and business commitments that on any chosen date many are simply unable to attend. I believe that the vast majority of those who voted by proxy at the EGM were genuinely unable to attend but were keen to vote on this historically important decision. Happily the result was the same whichever way the vote was counted with an overwhelming 80% in favour, both on the floor and including proxies.

The sub-committee has already had preliminary meetings to get the project started and is committed to doing everything possible to deliver it within time and on budget. Member concerns and feedback have been well noted and will be taken into account as the final tendering documents are drawn up. Members will be kept fully informed of progress through Outpost and on the Club website and in the following pages you will find a brief article by Ali Adam outlining the first steps.

2017 AGM:

A pre-calling notice has been sent to Ordinary and Country Members with an invitation to the AGM on Tuesday 21st March, asking for nominations for the General Committee. It will still be possible for candidates to be nominated as late as at the AGM from the floor, but we encourage nominations in advance so that Members can be well-informed of their options. We will post all nominations both in the Clubhouse and at the Poolside to ensure maximum transparency.

This has been a very positive year for the Club. There has been relatively little controversy and the GC has embarked on many initiatives to move the Club forwards. The most significant of course is the Poolside Redevelopment, debated for years and long overdue. The GC believes that this will be the beginning of a rejuvenation of the Club, taking its ageing facilities into the 21st Century, utilising to maximum effect our wonderful location in the heart of the city.

We have also tried to broaden the appeal of the Club. Whilst retaining a traditional atmosphere in our stylish, renovated Churchill Bar, a more relaxed venue is now provided upstairs in the 1910 Sports Bar where the dress code is relaxed, games can be played and sports commentary can be enjoyed. Similarly some of our events have been rebranded, most notably the Christmas Ball where Members were able let their hair down in a more relaxed atmosphere, enjoy great music and food and yet still make it a sparkling grand occasion.

But just as importantly, much work has been going on behind the scenes. Club security is being upgraded by bringing management in-house, strengthening security staff duties and protocols whilst at the same time improving infrastructure such as the new tannoy system and emergency exits.

Many of the Club management systems were very outdated and much work is being done to review everything from Human Resource management to our accounting and budgeting tools, F&B systems, House and Grounds maintenance, and IT systems.

An immediate priority is to put in place a stronger senior management structure beginning with the recruitment of a Deputy General Manager. This will give us more capacity to implement the system improvements and broaden our activities. In particular, we are committed to more actively recruiting new Members and will use the exciting Poolside Redevelopment as part of our marketing strategy.

Much of this is work in progress and will be inherited by the new GC. By reading the candidate statements, voting Members have the opportunity at the AGM to choose the direction they want to see the Club going. Although new ideas will always be welcome, I hope that the new GC will build on our initiatives and continue to take the Club forward in the directions that have been established this year.

Neilson Hays Library:

We have restored relationships with our neighbours at the Neilson Hays library this year. They are now an Associated Member group, our gate into the library is open at weekends and shortly we expect to sign a

contract to run their café again during the second half of 2017 when renovation works are complete. It is surprising that many BC Members are hardly aware that this splendid library exists, literally next door. It is a magnificent old building and besides being a library, it hosts numerous literary, art and musical events. Neilson Hays will hold some of these events at the Club during their renovations including Saturday morning children's story-time sessions, providing a great opportunity to build awareness of what our two non-profit associations can provide. Watch out for announcements.

Childrens Storytime at Neilson Hays



The Pavilion Café will be closed to become the new Staff House as soon as the Silom Wing construction schedule is finalised. It has been mainly used by non-Members who be will be catered for at the Neilson Hays Library. This will create a much improved staff facility, more modern, better located and with plenty of room for expansion at a later stage if staff numbers increase. It will also enable the Club's Surawongse Road wall to be reinstated, improving security and reducing street noise.

Full backdrops will be reinstated on the tennis courts to improve the tennis playing experience.

A New Personal Trainer:

In December we bade a sad farewell to Sandy Remiens who had changed many of our lives over the last 3 years as our personal trainer, patiently sorting out our alignment, posture, strength and balance problems accumulated during years of bad habits and injuries. I am delighted to say that David Fiala has now taken Sandy's place with over 20 years experience and impressive qualifications as a neuromuscular and clinical massage therapist. The feedback so far has been very positive. I encourage you get a free assessment in the Fitness Centre and get started on the wonderful road to good health. You can't miss him; he's 6 foot-lots and used to play international basketball.

Members Gathering:

The Members Gathering is one of the traditional events that I have always enjoyed and it was yet another very special evening on 9th February. We invited everyone who had been a Member for more than 20 years to enjoy free drinks and canapés on the Back Lawn as well as all new Members who joined during the last year.

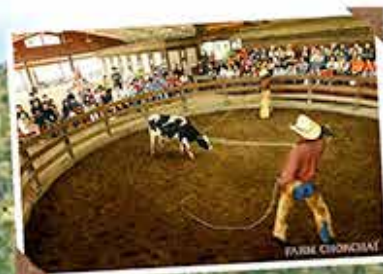
As I have mentioned before, one of my more enjoyable duties this year has been to meet most of the new Members but I was especially delighted to see so many of our most senior Members present including Paddy Dixon and Brian Thompson (1958), Robert Exell (1964), David Fisher (1965), Brian Heath (1966) and Leighton Fowles and Arthur Philips (1968) ... as well as our oldest Member, Sam Cohen. Thanks for coming everyone ... what stories!



CHOKCHAI FARM



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK



SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2017

Leaving the Club at 9am

- Set Lunch at Chokchai Steak House
- Agro tour of farm with English handbook
- Milking cows
- Making ice-cream to take home

Lots of fun + photos!

Adults Bt 1,900

Kids Bt 1,650 (<140cm high)

Prices include transport, set lunch
(choice of pork or salmon),
tour, and activities mentioned.

Book in Reception or by
email : events@britishclubbangkok.org

LETTER FROM the General Manager



Premrudee Tanyaluck

General Manager

At the end of January, the motion at the EGM was carried so we have already started on the paperwork that is necessary to gain permissions and approvals from different departments of the BMA and the architects are preparing detailed drawings, so the project is underway. We are also preparing for the staff house to move to its new location, which will happen when the contractors arrive in a couple of months. In addition, we are planning temporary facilities on the front lawn for Members with children once works start and the Silom Sala closes.

On Tuesday 21st March, we have this year's AGM so the calling papers will go out soon. Our new registration system works well and with the Mini Buffet from 4:30pm it means the evening runs smoothly. We hope Ordinary and Country Members will attend and if not they can cast their votes by proxy.

For maintenance this month, we have repaired the centre and back of the tennis courts, we have repainted the dividing lines in the carpark areas, attended to the MultiPurpose court and completed the decoration of the 1910 Sports Bar. With a pool table, carrom board, two giant TVs and air-conditioning, the Sports Bar is proving popular and I encourage all Members to come and try it out.

In March our events staff have arranged outside trips to Chokchai Farm and the Royal Palace at Bang Pa-In which is described on Khun Jeremy's page. There is UK Mother's Day at the end of the month and also the usual Quiz Night and Wine-Tasting. Please check on the website and book in Reception or by email.

Since issuing the new menus, there has been good feedback on the pictures and having Thai translations. We also introduced organic eggs throughout the Club for all relevant dishes. Any Member with suggestions on any aspect of the menus please send them in.

We still operate the Members Get Members promotion for successful referrals, so please check with our membership staff if you know anyone interested. Also remember we have reciprocal arrangements with 353 members' clubs around the world, so if you would like to visit any of them, please send us an email and we will prepare an introduction letter for you. For a list of reciprocal clubs, please check on the corridor noticeboard or on the website at <http://www.britishclubbangkok.org/index.php/home/associated-with-us/reciprocal-clubs>

Looking forward to seeing you all around the Club soon.

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah	11am - 2pm, 5pm - 10pm (Mon-Thurs) 11am - 10pm (Fri-Sun and Public Holidays)		
1910 Balcony	3pm - midnight (Afternoon Tea 3pm - 5pm)		
Accounts Office	9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri), Closed (Sat-Sun)		
The Pavilion Café	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)
1910 Sports Bar	5pm - midnight		



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

BANG PA-IN PALACE

-AYUTTHAYA-



16 THURS MARCH

Leaving the Club
at 10.30am

Adults Bt 1,500
Kids Bt 1,100 (Less than 11 yrs old)

- 10:30am - Leave from the Club
- 12:00am - Enjoy a group Thai lunch at Ayutthaya Garden River Home
- 1:30pm - Visit Bang Pa-In Palace
- 4:00pm - Depart from Bang Pa-In Palace and return to Bangkok
- 6:30pm - Arrive at the British Club



Book in Reception or by Email : events@britishclubbangkok.org

HAPPENINGS

February is a short month and coincides with the preparation of the Yearbook, so Outpost is ready a bit earlier than usual. We've had the Staff Party this month at Sattahip, a long trip to spend the day by the beach. I hear it was very hot, too hot even to swim, but it was much enjoyed by those that went. Those that didn't said they enjoyed the extra day off! The Member's Gathering was a terrific evening of good humour and some frivolity too, with a really good attendance including 5 Members who joined the Club over 50 years ago. That is quite staggering! Still to come in February is the Car Boot Sale this weekend and Quiz Night next week, the latter delayed on account of Valentine's Day. An early Easter (mid April) means we celebrate Pancake Day on Sunday 26th, a great afternoon for kids with races and fresh pancakes available to order.



Jeremy de Sausmarez

Events & Marketing
Manager

Coming up in March, on Saturday 11th we have an outing to Chokchai Farm, a long-term favourite with Mums and their children. It's not a long journey and there's a tasty set lunch on arrival followed by a tour of the farm, a chance to milk the cows, make some ice-cream (which you can bring back), and in addition you get to see the animals on the farm and that means fantastic photo opportunities! Then on Thursday 16th there's an outing to the Royal Palace at Bang Pa-In, set in beautiful grounds with lakes and fountains and well-tended gardens. There are little electric golf buggies to drive around the many different buildings which include a pagoda, and shiny lacquered Chinese temple, and various other Thai-European mansions which house antiques and even an old car collection from the early days of Siam. It's a fantastic one-day trip, and Khun Pae managed to find a place nearby where one can have a pleasant lunch before spending the afternoon at the palace grounds. I spent 5 hours there with my wife and took hundreds of photos, so I really recommend this outing.

At the end of March, there's Mothering Sunday which we call UK Mother's Day on Sunday 26th which also happens to be the day the 2017 Formula 1 season kicks off afresh. Khun Laak will dig out some special recipes for the Sunday Brunch in celebration of all mothers so treat your wives/mothers on that day. Earlier that week on Tuesday 21st, there's this year's Annual General Meeting in the Surawongse Room and once again in anticipation of a good turnout there will be a Mini Buffet in The Verandah from 4:30pm onwards so hungry attendees don't need to wait too long to fill up.

Looking ahead into April, of course it's not only the hottest month but it's also Songkran mid-month, and just to make it an even bigger holiday, Easter Day falls on Sunday 16th which is the last day of the Songkran holiday. Easter Day is a big day for us with the Egg Hunt on the Back Lawn and lots of fun for kids. Later in April there's also the Club's 114th birthday party and the month ends with a long weekend which is followed by another long weekend at the end of the first week in May, so plan your holidays well in advance!

Let me round off with clarification about the TV Sports mailings, as there has been a bit of confusion with feedback. I send the mailings out, but I'm not a great sportsman nor really am I a very avid sports fan (did you guess?) so the choice of what is worth watching falls to Khun Amnat, our Sports Manager, and the scheduling for which televisions show what matches in which rooms falls to Khun Off, our Duty Manager. If you have requests for or even grumbles about TV Sports, of course it's fine to email me, but you can email them direct if you prefer. All the main staff email addresses are listed on the Contents page of Outpost every month.

Have a great month ahead!



PUNJAB GRILL

GOURMET FINE DINING

INDIAN GOURMET FINE DINING IN BANGKOK
OPEN DAILY FROM 6 - 11.30PM
SUNDAY BRUNCH FROM NOON - 3PM

DAILY LIVE MUSIC

AT RADISSON SUITES BANGKOK SUKHUMVIT (SUKHUMVIT SOI 13)
BTS NANA STATION (EXIT 3)

RESERVATION: 02 645 4952, 091 818 5248
OR VISIT WWW.PUNJABGRILLBANGKOK.COM



BUSINESS LUNCHEONS

MARCH



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

6th March - 10th March

Starters: 65 Baht

Mixed salad and Smoked chicken breast,
beetroot and mango with balsamic dressing or Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 160 Baht

Chicken Stew in Red Wine served with green beans, carrots and mashed potatoes
or Dory Fish with Mango Salsa served with mixed salad and boiled potatoes
or Roast Pork Neck with homemade apple sauce served with mixed vegetables and roast potatoes
or Tom Yum Gai (Spicy lemon grass soup with chicken and mushrooms)
Phad Tua Ngok Tao Hoo (Stir-fried bean sprouts with curd and oyster sauce)
Pla Som Rod (Deep-fried Dory topped with sweet and sour spiced sauce)

13th March - 17th March

Starters: 65 Baht

Chicken and Cranberry Salad with balsamic dressing or Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 160 Baht

Chicken Tikka Masala served with yellow rice
or Pan-Fried Dory with Mornay sauce served with carrots, broccoli and mashed potatoes
or Fillet of Pork wrapped in Parma Ham with grain mustard
and honey sauce served with baked eggplant and new potatoes
or Gaeng Kiew Wan Gai (Chicken in green curry sauce)
Moo Tod Krathiem (Fried sliced pork with garlic)
Phad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy (Stir-fried mixed vegetables with oyster sauce)

20th March - 24th March

Starters: 65 Baht

Tuna Salad Tuna tin, tomatoes, cucumber,
green beans, potatoes and egg or Chef's soup of the Day

Main Courses : 160 Baht

Creamy chicken breast with penne peas and creamy white wine sauce or Fish and Chips
or Marinated pork fillet roast on rhubarb served with roast vegetable and Lyonnaise potato
or Tom Kha Gai (A refreshing coconut milk soup with chicken and herbs)
Tod Man Pla (Deep-fried fishcakes)
Phad Tua Ngok Moo Krob (Stir-fried bean sprouts with crispy pork and oyster sauce)

27th March - 31st March

Starter : 65 Baht

Smoked Duck Salad with orange and honey dressing
or Chef's soup of the day

Main Crouse : 160 Baht

Chicken and wild mushroom Lasagna served with garlic bread
or Pan-fried Dory with caper Meunière served with broccoli, carrots and mashed potato
or Shepherd's pie
or Gaeng Jued Tao Hoo Moo Sab (Chinese lettuce soup with minced pork and tofu)
Phad Kraprao Moo Sab (Stir-fried minced pork with hot basil and chili)
Kai Dao (Fried egg)

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

F&B MORSELS

The Dim Sum Buffet at Chinese New Year was quite well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy the Dim Sum and other dishes too, and many diners went on to watch the Lion Dance. Coming very soon before February ends is Pancake Day with games and fun for children which can be added to with the fresh pancake menu we have for the day, cooked to order!

The new international and Thai menus have been issued and I'm pleased to say the feedback has been good, although I have not heard any comments about the introduction of organic eggs, but with lower antibiotic and hormone levels, they are certainly better for health. Out of the new dishes, both the Duck Confit and the Poached Salmon have been ordered the most for international food, and for Thai food the Kanom Jeen, the Suki, and the Kung Ob Woon Sen have been most popular. I recommend you try the new dishes so we know whether to keep them in the future.

In March we carry on with promotions for Paella on Wednesdays and the extra Burger selection, and there will also be a chocolate dessert promotion which I'm sure you will enjoy. At the end of the month there is the UK Mother's Day and I will see about some special dishes for that day. I am also still working on the new Healthy Menus, which take quite some time to prepare to be healthy and tasty too!

As always, if there's any dish you would like me to try and include on the Specials Boards in the future, just let me know.

Happy Eating!



Khun Laak

Executive Chef



Cocktail of the Month "March"

JÄGER
BOMB
ONLY BT 125



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

THE ROOSTER CROWS

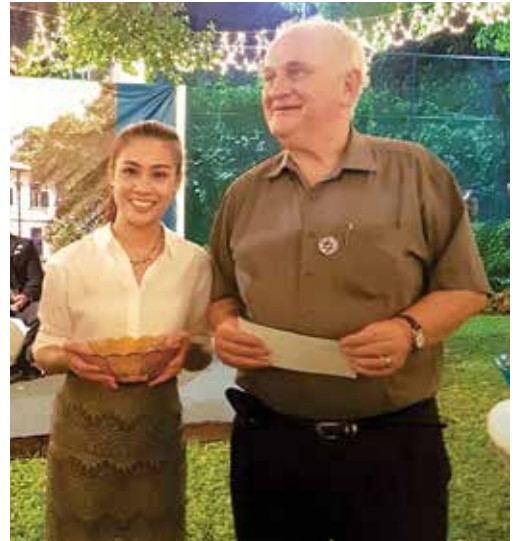
To celebrate the arrival of the Year of the Rooster, the Clubhouse was decorated with red hangings, red dingle-dangles, and the female staff were bedecked in red clothing. The Dim Sum Buffet saw a great turn-out in The Verandah both midday and in the evening, and the little dumplings were delicious, freshly steamed! In the early afternoon on the Front Lawn, the orange and white lions danced and sparred with a background drumming which would scare the least timid bad spirits away! The lions disrobed so as to make human pyramids, most impressive, and well out of sight of any health and safety executives here on holiday. Gong Xi Fa Cai!





BLENDING THE NOW AND THEN

The annual gathering of Members this year invited any Member of more than 20 years standing, as well as any new Members joining in the last twelve months. Despite indescribably bad traffic, we ended up with almost 100 people altogether, and it was time chat and stories from yesteryear washed down with free drinks and lovely canapés too. After the group photos, there were 17 prizes awarded to lucky names, with rewards from meal vouchers to two night luxury stays in Phuket. With the 5 longest serving Members present, we had a wonderful evening.





Over 50 years



Over 40 years



Over 20 years

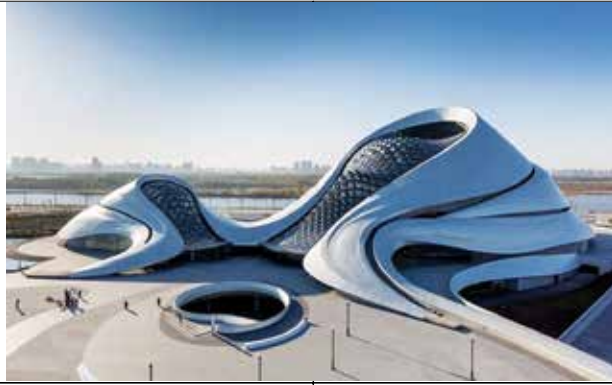


A great evening!

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



6

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm




7

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm

Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm

Football
7 - 9pm





8

Ladies Tennis Coaching
9am - 10:30am

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm




13

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm




14

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm

Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm

Quiz Night
7:15pm The Verandah

Football
7 - 9pm





15

Ladies Tennis Coaching
9am - 10:30am

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm




FOOTBALL TUESDAYS 7-9PM
MEMBERS: FREE
NON MEMBERS: 100 BAHT

SWIMMING LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS
- WEEKENDS -
200 baht / 30 mins
Start Sat 20 Jan

TENNIS LADIES COACHING
START 2017

SWIMMING FOR COMPETITION AND TECHNIQUE
BY COACH MINN
WEDNESDAYS 9:30AM - 10:30AM
700 BAHT PER CLASS

20

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm




21

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm

Football
7 - 9pm

Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm

AGM 2017
7pm Surawongse Room





22

Ladies Tennis Coaching
9am - 10:30am

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm




27

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm




28

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm

Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm

Football
7 - 9pm





29

Ladies Tennis Coaching
9am - 10:30am

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm




BC Calendar March 2017



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

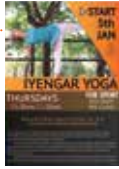
Sunday

2

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



Iyengar Yoga
10:30 - 11:30am



3

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Tennis Junior
4 - 5pm / 5 - 6pm

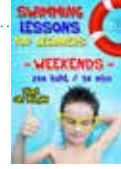


4

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am



Swim Lessons
9am - 10:30am



5

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am



Swim Lessons
9am - 10:30am



Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room



9

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



Iyengar Yoga
10:30 - 11:30am



10

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Tennis Junior
4 - 5pm / 5 - 6pm



11

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am



Swim Lessons
9am - 10:30am



Chokchai Farm
9am Leaving the Club

12

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am



Swim Lessons
9am - 10:30am



Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room



16

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



Iyengar Yoga
10:30 - 11:30am



Bang Pa-In Palace
10:30am
Leaving the Club

17

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Tennis Junior
4 - 5pm / 5 - 6pm



18

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am



Swim Lessons
9am - 10:30am



19

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am



Swim Lessons
9am - 10:30am



Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room

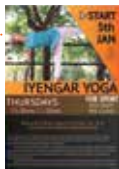


23

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



Iyengar Yoga
10:30 - 11:30am



24

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Tennis Junior
4 - 5pm / 5 - 6pm



25

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am



Swim Lessons
9am - 10:30am



26

Kids Cricket
Book first! 8am - 11am



Swim Lessons
9am - 10:30am



UK Mother's Day
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

30

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



Iyengar Yoga
10:30 - 11:30am



31

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Tennis Junior
4 - 5pm / 5 - 6pm



Wine Tasting
6 - 9pm
Surawongse Room



MTB in CM!

by Bruce Madge

Thankfully our annual Chiang Mai trip isn't only about squash – read Bits! It includes some fantastic social cricket on the Saturday and then the serious cricket on the Sunday – read Hard Balls for that. Not being a serious cricketer, I'm not even a consideration for the Sunday team so decided to try a mountain bike ride down Doi Suthep.

After riding BMX bikes for around a decade as a youngster and then mountain bikes for many years in the UK, I had pretty much given up any form of cycling since I moved to Thailand almost 15 years ago. However, late last year Nick Mellor invited me out for a Sunday afternoon ride around Bangkok and I was immediately hooked again and soon after bought my own mountain bike and all the necessary gear. Since then we've ridden the Sky Lane airport track a few times and done some off- road riding in Chonburi along with plenty of road riding in Bangkok. All pretty tame stuff though.

Thus, I thought a serious, downhill ride would be a welcome challenge, lots of fun and well within my capabilities. Apart from the challenge aspect, I was very mistaken.

I booked a ride with Chiang Mai Mountain Bike which provides a range of on and off-road trips from easy to advanced level, and includes bike hire, safety equipment and guides. I selected Trip 4 – the full downhill run labeled The Hunters' Escape Routes which required the full-suspension bike, a full-face helmet and body armour. Full on!

Trip 4 has several run variations from intermediate to expert and in all the commotion of trying out the bike, getting kitted out, and dealing with the instructions regarding safety, and so on, I forgot to specify which one I preferred. In other words, I neglected to tell them that I wanted the shortish, smoothish, easyish run (4b) that I'd seen in the videos on their website. As a result of my oversight I ended up on 4a which is the most difficult downhill run Doi Suthep has to offer

I was quite surprised to discover that I was the only person doing the downhill run that day with all other riders opting for Trips 1 or 3 – relatively easy routes requiring only standard mountain bikes. I soon found out why.

My guide, Nat, seemed impressed that I knew how to handle the full-suspension bike pretty well so once we got to the top of the mountain we didn't hang around while the other riders had to prove they could ride over a small log, change gears and brake safely. We padded up and off we went.

The firm!



Jeez!



Like riding down a mountain!



The routes!



I can't stop!



What!



Let me walk a bit!



Hang on! a bit!



Wanted this!



Or this!



But got this!



And this!



The view!



Nat showing off!



Sky Track

Up the road for the first kilometer or so and despite being fit from squash and regular riding, I was quite shocked to feel absolutely knackered after just five minutes of peddling and slightly nauseous and desperately thirsty. Altitude sickness at 1,600 metres? Is that possible? Not sure I'd ever been that high before apart from in a plane.

After around ten minutes of road riding, we began the downhill run. Nat told me it wasn't going to be easy and off we went. Carrying a shoulder injury, I was worried that it would hinder me, but I didn't feel it at all as I very soon had other concerns. What followed was an hour or so of the most extreme and difficult riding I'd ever experienced: continual sheer drops, impossibly steep and seemingly unrideable along tight, single tracks dotted with deep ruts, large roots and dozens of rocks; hardly a smooth trail in sight and not even all downhill as some sections required climbing, quite literally off the bike and dragging it up the slopes; it was relentless and chaotic as I was thrown around all over the place trying to hang on and not go flying over the handle bars and into a tree or ravine; my arms and legs were killing me, while I was absolutely drenched in sweat and still feeling sick and completely exhausted.

Nat (only 22 years old) was waiting for me at the end of each section where we took a break and I assessed what the hell I was doing. I had to keep reminding myself that I was riding down a mountain so it was bound to be tough. And it was tough. It was really, really extreme and, to be honest, way too difficult. Some of the sections were horrendous and had to be walked down, but I managed to ride at least 80% of it and, amazingly didn't fall off once! I felt like bailing out all the way down, but there was no other route. I had to finish it.

Finally, and very, very thankfully, we got to the bottom of the run where we took off the pads and sped down the road into the city and back to the shop. It was over and at last some smooth riding!

The entire run from mountain top back to the shop was 20kms and took 1.45hrs and I have to admit that it wasn't enjoyable at all as it was just too difficult. I'd picked the wrong trip – the extreme downhill run for advanced riders, which I'm not. There are other easier downhill runs on Doi Suthep which are still challenging, but apparently way more enjoyable as they are relaxing, scenic rides along smoother jeep tracks as opposed to riding down a cliff face! I'll try one of those next time and hopefully get acclimatized beforehand.

Chiang Mai Mountain Bike is an excellent MTB tour company and Nat was a fantastic guide who took great care of me all the way down that nightmare downhill. I'd thoroughly recommend them if you're in CM and love cycling. Just avoid the Hunters' Escape Routes!

22 WALKS IN BANGKOK

Exploring the City's Historic Back Lanes and Byways

by Kenneth Barrett

An area where cakes are still made to a 300 year old Portuguese recipe; a temple which has images of Che Guevara, Captain Hook and David Beckham; a 100 year old tea shop where the tea is stored in small wall safes behind doors painted with images of butterflies, clouds, trees and leaves and the owner will gladly make you tea to taste; a monument to a pig and a bridge with 88 tiger statues; descriptions of these and much, much more can be found in this informative book.

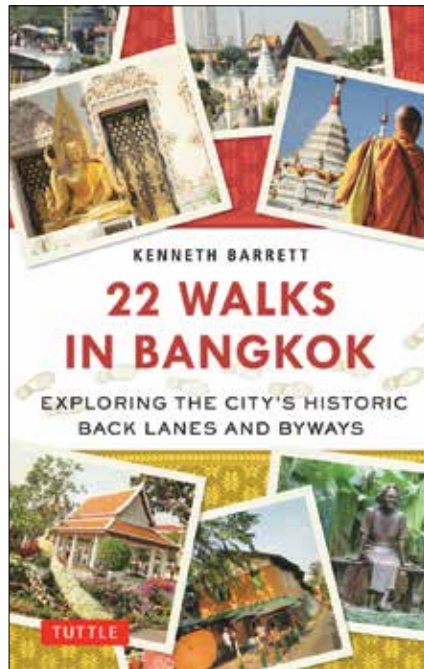
The author of 22 Walks in Bangkok, Ken Barrett, has lived in the city for many years, has made an extensive study of the history of the various different districts and presents each neighbourhood as a distinct village. Indeed this book was originally conceived as just that, a history of how each area evolved into the city of Bangkok as we know it. It then developed into a book of walks, into which it is possible to delve, select an area to visit and spend a good few hours just exploring. Our experience is that each chapter contains so much to see that it is not possible to do each

walk in the time suggested. But that is not a problem, as it is better to cut the walks into smaller chunks and really get into the atmosphere of each area. There are always places to stop for a drink, or a meal.

The book is also a fascinating read and provides a very comprehensive history of the start and development of Bangkok, descriptions of almost all the buildings of interest and interesting facts on the major characters of the city. You can learn about the temple built by a brothel owner, the hideout for a Japanese officer on the run after the war, the first car showroom and driving licence office, why Sukhumvit road was named after Mr Sukhum and not Nana road after Mr Nana, and whether or not Jim Thompson's house is haunted.

In short, this is a must-have book, if you want to know more about Bangkok and where else to go apart from the famous tourist sights.

Submitted by Jenny Harries



**The driver considered this car "parked".
Unbelievable!**



SILOM WING PROJECT

Update

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was held on the 31st January resulting in the Members voting 169-42 in favour of proceeding with the Silom Wing of the Poolside Redevelopment Project.

The General Committee is committed to ensuring to the best of its ability that the project is managed in an open and transparent way and delivered on time and within budget. The Poolside Redevelopment Sub-Committee (PRSC) has been reformed with a renewed remit.

The General Committee will appoint a Silom Wing Sub-Committee (SWSC) that will comprise qualified professionals to manage the delivery of the project and it will be established under Rule 13 and its governance established by a special By-Law created under Rule 18.

An important step in realising the project will be the selection of a suitably experienced Project Manager to lead and manage the project on behalf of the Club. The SWSC will assist the GC in the appointment of the Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor, Architectural and Engineering consultants for the detailed design stage. We expect to finalise these appointments and update the timeline within the next few weeks.

Over the coming weeks the SWSC will be working hard to review and plan the detailed design phase, new staff house, temporary facility plans on the front lawn for families and children, regulatory compliance and authority submissions, plus to monitor budgets, timeline and scope.

Our Redevelopment microsite can be found at (britishclubbangkok.wordpress.com) and the Frequently Asked Questions page on the this website will be updated regularly and throughout the various phases of design, tender, demolition, and construction. Please take a moment to read through these pages to help you better understand the project, processes and the progress made.

The Silom Wing will be a huge milestone for the Club, our largest investment for decades, delivering the first phase of an exciting modern family and sports hub before the end of March 2018.

Be sure to bookmark the site so that you can check in regularly!



AS THINGS HAPPENED

Within months of the fall of Saigon in April 1975 at the end of the Vietnam War, both Laos and Cambodia quickly fell under communist governments and former American supporters began to arrive in Thailand from all three Indochinese countries as refugees. Before I became involved with Burma, my early work with the Church of Christ in Thailand included responsibility for their modest Indochinese refugee programme. For a decade I made regular trips to the border, taking



Jack Dunford

hundreds of pictures and I will share a few of these over the coming months.

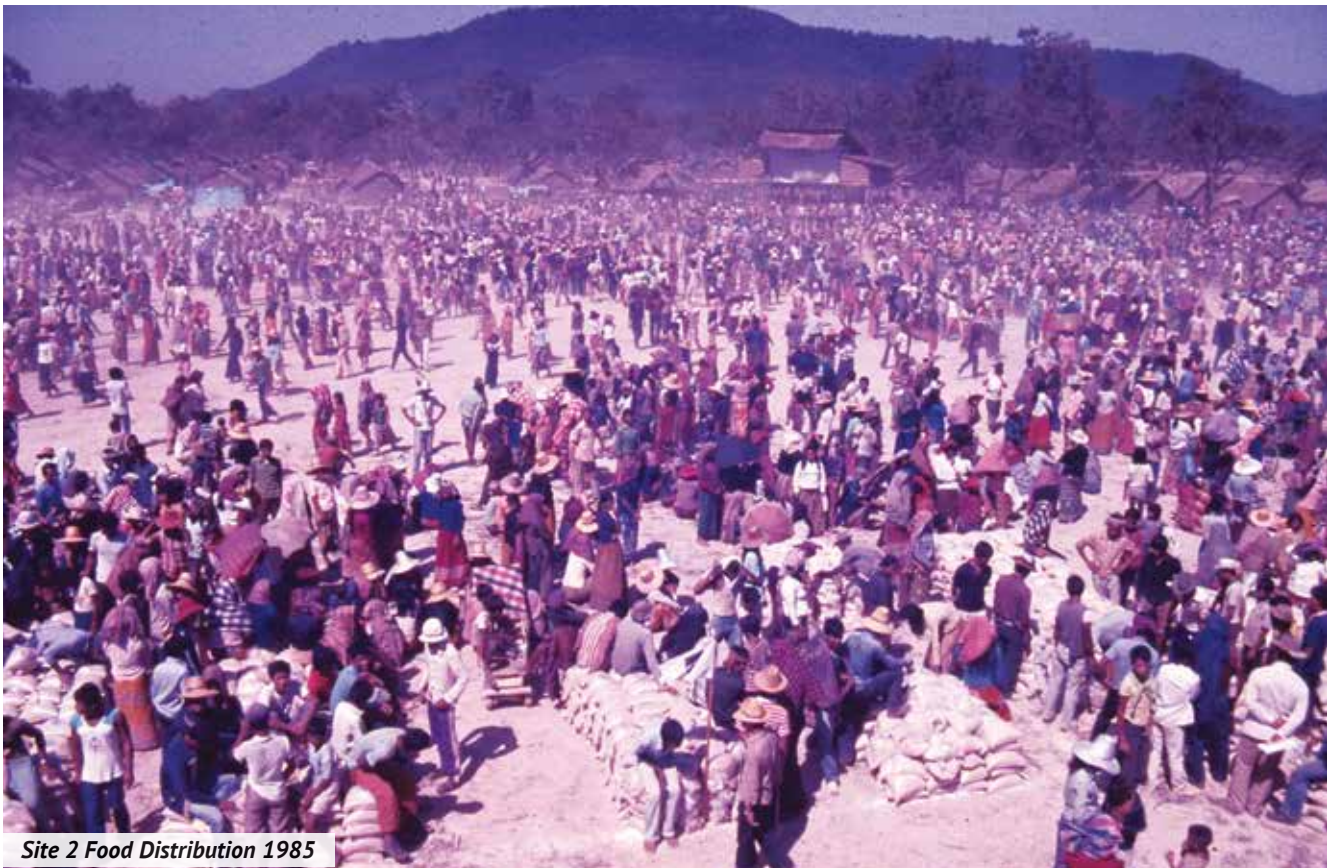
My involvement began in 1981 after Vietnam invaded Cambodia to drive out the Khmer Rouge, who had wiped out an estimated 2 million people or about a quarter of the entire population. My pictures this month are of the border camps where hundreds of thousands of refugees fled but were held effectively as a buffer against further Vietnamese expansion. Some camps had as many as 150,000 refugees.



Site 2 1985



Noodles Site B 1987



Site 2 Food Distribution 1985



Site 8 1990



Nong Chan 1982



Nong Samet 1981



Nong Samet 1982



Pre Chan 1983



Rice noodles Nong Chan 1982



Site 2 1985



Site 2 1985

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HARD BALLS

Back into the swing of things, BC have been capitalising on the weather this time of the year with cricket every weekend through Feb and most of March, plus the fireball cricket kicking off again on Thursday evenings. The season preceding the current was recounted at BC's annual awards ceremony in January – consisting of a social double wicket competition and another fantastic spread of Indian food from Rahul and family. As expected, this was a well-attended event, and no-one was safe from being fined for their mishaps they thought were long since buried; hairstyles and tour behaviour taking precedence over cricketing achievements.



Ben Eastwell



Dilip in his university days



Who let the Aussies in



Mossy welcomes the new Members



Hi-jacking the celebration



Tucking in



I only came here for the food



Ooh ahh



Southerners 6s @ TCG 28-29 Jan

After an evening at the BCL awards watching all the other teams clean up on the silverware, BC spent the last weekend of Jan battling it out at Thailand cricket ground during the social 6s tournament alongside 6 other hopeful teams. Whilst the focus seemed to be more on how quickly the bar could be depleted, there was still some cricket to be played; 6-a-side, 5 overs per team on a full sized pitch made for some attacking play and encouraged big hitting on a pitch that was playing slower than Patrick trying to string a sentence together after 3 beers.

Of the 4 games BC played on Saturday, 2 were spectacularly, unluckily and in one case unobservantly tied but lost on wickets, 1 lost, and 1 won. This included almost causing upset amongst the hosts and reigning champions 'Southerners Gold' in the opening game. Patrick's new flying camera thing was armed with an arsenal of new batteries and used to capture the weekend's play... Well, mostly Saturday's play as someone (who can't be named for legal purposes) crashed it into the side of a building on Sunday morning – inflicting a wave of anger and sadness through the team for Sunday's fixtures. The 2 games on Sunday morning resulted in another (lost) tie and win against Siam Parrots to guarantee a spot in one of the finals. Unfortunately, said bowl final fell 3 hours later and the team had loosened up a little bit too much before throwing it away against 'Black Swans'. Nevertheless, performance was recognisably improved in all areas and the team challenged throughout, averaging around 12 per over and taking their chances in the field.

**In loving memory of Huby.
May he rest in pieces.**



RIP



Dale taking a drinks break



T10 squad

Chiang Mai Tour 4-5 Feb

In the first weekend of Feb, BC flew up in numbers to give Chiang Mai a run for their money at the Gymkhana club, hoping to snatch back the Dick Wood trophy which hasn't gone BC's way since 2010. After a quiet Friday night the players were eased into the playing conditions with a social game on Saturday consisting of mostly BC members and a few wild cards from the Chiang Mai side, concluded with some expected controversy in the dying moments. Jackers looked to concrete himself a place in the Sunday XI, the all-round star performance including a freaky catch at mid-on and a flurry of boundaries off the bat. Appreciatively organised by Ian, a fantastic riverside meal followed in the evening to replace the BBQ from previous years where fortunately everyone managed to refrain from breaking any more chairs and Pat didn't fall asleep at the table. More importantly, Mossy managed to hold back from the national anthem (for one day anyway).



Tied up



On best behaviour

knighted



Sunday's game which has since been suggested be played on the Saturday in the future (no excuses) was comprised of the strongest 11 available, or more importantly – who had actually woken up in the morning. After BC's rendition of the knighthood ceremony and Sarg's 92 verse poem recital to BC cricket's very own legend - Sir Nick White (reported in last month's issue), the touring side set to the field first and started well despite

the chain saws buzzing in the background as Gymkhana had decided it was the perfect day to hack down a few of the trees surrounding the pitch. This caused disruption to the point that no-one could hear the stand in captain's instructions to re-arrange the field after every ball. Once the timber had been cleared from the boundary Gymkhana went on to post a respectable 211 from the 30 allotted overs.

Chasing at around 7 per over was approached cautiously by Sir Nick and Mossy, managing to hold up until the 8th over, posting 52 runs between them. Ben, Goti and Dale took up the task to follow but never really kicked into gear as the RPO target and scoreboard pressure crept up. A middle order collapse preceded a cameo from Dilip and David but it was all too late to salvage a victory from the game, BC eventually all out short of the target at 142. Sir Nick proceeded to deliver fines to every man and his dog, receiving a curtsy and considerably less backchat in honour of his recently acquired status.

Catching some Zs



Attacking field placement



Until next year



Sunday XI



Saturday social game at Gymkhana



SQUASHY BITS

A Broken Heart!



Peter's ode to Neil!

This year's team match for the Corney Chiang Mai Cup Challenge Championship Charter Gala Raffle was a tepid and pathetic affair and over in around 67 minutes. We fielded a very weak team and got thrashed. Our only winner was H, although Ian Brewis played valiantly and desperately and only narrowly lost 3-2. Madge (shoulder injury), Sir Nicky White (old, rusty, slightly senile) and Corrine Hastings (even older, hadn't played squash for a year) were all hammered 3-0. It was so crap we didn't even take any photos save the one of the final scores. Peter (couldn't play as was about to die from the flu) was



Bruce Madge

devastated and blamed Squash Section Captain Neil Evans as he'd declined to make the trip again and hadn't/couldn't persuaded any of our stronger players to go. Well, as he wasn't going himself, he didn't have much leverage, did he? And why didn't he go? Well, it certainly wasn't because he couldn't afford it or wasn't available. It is believed it had something to do with being married!

Whatever the reason, Peter was absolutely shell-shocked at such a spineless capitulation. You should have seen the terribly sad and dejected look on his face as he handed over HIS trophy to Bob, the captain of the Gymkhana team. Devastated he was. With his ageing body raging with the flu, it was all he could do to stop himself from bursting into uncontrollable floods of tears. I took a tuk tuk back to the hotel with him and that's when he let it all out. Said he was literally heartbroken that he'd been so let down by his key player. He didn't mention any particular name

	GYMKHANA	-v-	BRITISH CLUB	
1	NID	-v-	HARROON	0-3
2	WONG	-v-	NICK	3-0
3	OWEN	-v-	BRUCE	3-0
4	DET	-v-	IAN	3-2
5	GERARD	-v-	COLIN	3-0

Thrashed!

of course, he's too kind for that, but the inference was clear. Claimed it was his most disappointing moment in all the years he'd been involved with BCB Squash. The tears were flowing freely now as we bounced along in the tuk tuk past the brightly coloured lights adorning the local entertainment spots where the young and the old were eating and drinking, laughing and enjoying life. Such a contrast to poor Peter's sad, demoralized demeanour. I held his shaking, wrinkled hand and let him rest his weary head on my shoulder as his choking sobs filled the night air with the awful sadness of a heartbroken old man.

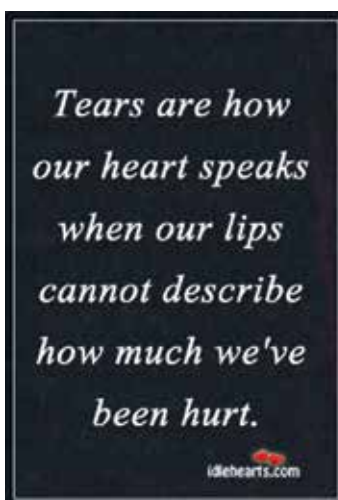
When we got back to the hotel he asked me to sit with him a while as he said he just couldn't face being alone. We found a seat in the dining room, which was closed by now and dark and quiet. Sitting opposite each other, Peter stared into my eyes and then suddenly looked away as the tears began to flow again. Presently, he asked me if I liked him. If I respected him. If I loved him. Not quite sure where he was going with this, I assured him that we all loved him. I told him that he was the rock behind the BCB Squash Section and

that without him it, rather we, would be nothing. Why then, he pleaded, did some squash players hate him. What had he done to make them feel that way. What had he done to make them not want to play for him. I asked him if he was referring to Neil. He just looked away and shuddered. Utterly speechless with green phlegm dripping from his nose.

We were running out of tissues at this point so I suggested he retire to bed. It seemed a sensible option considering he looked about to die. The lift was out of order as we were staying in a cheap gaff so we had to take the stairs to the third floor. Being old, frail, sick and heartbroken, our passage to his room was painfully and laboriously slow. There he invited me in for a night cap and, rather strangely, a

chapter of Harry Potter. WTF? At that point, I'd had enough. It was only a flamin' squash match, for crying out loud. I told him to stop sobbing, to grow up, to shut up and to go to bed. I then went out and got pissed!

Until next year's trip when Evans MUST go.....



Poignant words!



Peter's favourite boy!



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.



TENNIS

2017 Club Championships

This year's Championship is well underway and building towards the climactic finals day on 25th March (see poster opposite). Many thanks to all of the sponsors who have provided prizes. The competition so far is picking up where the high standard of 2016 left off, with great tennis and competitive matches from round 1. All are welcome to come along and support the players on finals day whilst enjoying the opportunity to watch some top quality tennis.



Ian Thornhill



Leagues & Mix-ins

The monthly leagues are continuing, and many thanks to Graham Johnston for taking over their organisation, and Head2Toe Salon for sponsoring the prizes. If anyone wants to join the next leagues just let Graham or Khun Amnat know. Mix-ins are continuing as normal and remain open to all, every Sunday (4-7pm), Mon, Wed and Fri (6-10pm). There is a Ladies' morning mix-in available on Thursdays from 9 - 11 a.m.



2017 CHAMPIONSHIP BRITISH CLUB tennis



Saturday 25 March
Starting 8:00 am

Plate semi finals
Sun 19 March



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BCGS

January 2017



The January Stableford, which was played at Royal Lakeside, took extra significance as it doubled as the DeeMed Trophy. This event is a competition between the committee and the members. It was established in days of yore by Dugal Forrest, a past BCGS captain, and also a past BC chairman, and the trophy was named after his company. Dugal now lives in Scarborough with his wife Sriwan. Over the years, the results have slightly favoured the committee, partly due to their advantage in deciding the exact format for scoring. Acting captain Brian Brook led from the front, winning the Stableford event with an impressive 38 points. The other two committee members playing, Karen Carter and Frank Fawkes, filled the minor places of the Stableford, resulting in an overwhelming committee win in the DeeMed Trophy.



Winning Committee team at DeeMed



Pete practices putting



Brian Brook won wine at the Stableford



Jeremy Watson came close



Todd seems to have won Terry's approval



Varghese, Medal Winner



John Bell, Medal winner

The monthly Worldwide Relocations Medal was played with The Royal at Lat Krabang at its best. Flight A was very competitive. John Bell, who had won the December medal with a net 70, won again with a net 71. He was a single shot ahead of Terry Davis, Bryan Dodd and birthday boy Todd Guest who all shared second place, with Peter Clark just one shot further behind. Flight B also had a repeat winner. Varghese again scored net 71, which was his winning score in December, to win again. He beat David Burton into second place with James Lawden coming third.

If you would like to join this group of golfers please send us an email to bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk We are always keen to welcome new members at any level of handicap.

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.

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